

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,930

2
00:00:02,930 --> 00:00:04,777
This is a test.

3
00:00:04,777 --> 00:00:05,860
Do you want me to do more?

4
00:00:05,860 --> 00:00:06,360
No.

5
00:00:06,360 --> 00:00:09,870

6
00:00:09,870 --> 00:00:13,050
The date is Sunday,
March 29, 1992.

7
00:00:13,050 --> 00:00:17,370
We're speaking with Dr. Liane
Reif-Lehrer about her parents.

8
00:00:17,370 --> 00:00:19,920

9
00:00:19,920 --> 00:00:21,402
What can you tell us--

10
00:00:21,402 --> 00:00:22,610
let's start with your mother.

11
00:00:22,610 --> 00:00:23,610
Is that all right?

12
00:00:23,610 --> 00:00:24,450
OK.

13
00:00:24,450 --> 00:00:27,330
Can you tell us her

name, her date of birth,

14

00:00:27,330 --> 00:00:30,960

her place of birth, anything
you know about her childhood,

15

00:00:30,960 --> 00:00:32,049

anything at all?

16

00:00:32,049 --> 00:00:33,300

OK.

17

00:00:33,300 --> 00:00:36,480

My mother's name was
Clara Gottfried-Reif,

18

00:00:36,480 --> 00:00:41,610

G-O-T-T-F-R-I-E-D, and she was
born in a small town in Poland

19

00:00:41,610 --> 00:00:45,600

not far from Lemberg,
which is now called Lviv.

20

00:00:45,600 --> 00:00:54,910

And she was apparently somewhat
of a rambunctious young lady,

21

00:00:54,910 --> 00:00:59,640

and she often said that she--

22

00:00:59,640 --> 00:01:01,710

I guess she didn't get
along with her father

23

00:01:01,710 --> 00:01:03,000

as well as with her mother.

24

00:01:03,000 --> 00:01:10,740

And she liked to run around, and
travel, and do a lot of things.

25

00:01:10,740 --> 00:01:14,250
And she spoke several
languages because when

26
00:01:14,250 --> 00:01:18,210
she was a child the borders kept
changing, and so at one point,

27
00:01:18,210 --> 00:01:20,070
where she was born
was part of Austria.

28
00:01:20,070 --> 00:01:22,770
And I think both
she and my father

29
00:01:22,770 --> 00:01:27,720
were actually Austrian citizens
because when they were born

30
00:01:27,720 --> 00:01:29,610
Poland was part of Austria.

31
00:01:29,610 --> 00:01:33,090
And then the Russians came in.

32
00:01:33,090 --> 00:01:38,490
So she spoke Polish,
Russian, German.

33
00:01:38,490 --> 00:01:43,490
I think she spoke
some Czechoslovakia,

34
00:01:43,490 --> 00:01:47,240
and she might have
been conversant

35
00:01:47,240 --> 00:01:49,447
with a couple of
other languages.

36
00:01:49,447 --> 00:01:51,530

She always said she spoke
five or seven languages,

37
00:01:51,530 --> 00:01:53,670
and I never remember
whether it's five or seven.

38
00:01:53,670 --> 00:01:56,800
Do you know what
they spoke at home?

39
00:01:56,800 --> 00:01:59,800
I think at home they
probably spoke a combination

40
00:01:59,800 --> 00:02:00,775
of Polish and Yiddish.

41
00:02:00,775 --> 00:02:05,760

42
00:02:05,760 --> 00:02:09,910
Yeah, I think that was correct.

43
00:02:09,910 --> 00:02:12,990
So my mother did a lot
of traveling around.

44
00:02:12,990 --> 00:02:19,710
She used to go to Lemberg to
have clothes made and so on,

45
00:02:19,710 --> 00:02:25,810
and I think she went off to
school at some point also.

46
00:02:25,810 --> 00:02:28,230
Do you know what
kind of a school?

47
00:02:28,230 --> 00:02:30,193
Was it a Jewish school,
or a private school,

48
00:02:30,193 --> 00:02:31,110
or a technical school?

49
00:02:31,110 --> 00:02:31,920
I don't know.

50
00:02:31,920 --> 00:02:33,900
No, it was definitely
not a technical school,

51
00:02:33,900 --> 00:02:35,670
and I don't really know.

52
00:02:35,670 --> 00:02:37,290
I have a feeling
it might have been

53
00:02:37,290 --> 00:02:39,750
more like a finishing
school or just

54
00:02:39,750 --> 00:02:41,130
some kind of general school.

55
00:02:41,130 --> 00:02:44,020

56
00:02:44,020 --> 00:02:52,840
She definitely finished
gymnasium but did not

57
00:02:52,840 --> 00:02:57,820
go to college, but
she was pretty clever.

58
00:02:57,820 --> 00:03:01,420
She was very, very
good with numbers,

59
00:03:01,420 --> 00:03:04,150
and she did a lot of reading.

60
00:03:04,150 --> 00:03:07,180

61
00:03:07,180 --> 00:03:10,240
Anyway, at some-- and I
think she was very interested

62
00:03:10,240 --> 00:03:13,430
when she was young in fashion
and that kind of thing.

63
00:03:13,430 --> 00:03:18,040
And so at some point,
she went off to Vienna

64
00:03:18,040 --> 00:03:20,858
either for a vacation
or to have clothes made.

65
00:03:20,858 --> 00:03:21,400
I don't know.

66
00:03:21,400 --> 00:03:25,570
And somehow-- and I don't know
how-- but she met my father.

67
00:03:25,570 --> 00:03:28,810
And, well, ultimately,
they got engaged,

68
00:03:28,810 --> 00:03:32,350
and then they got
married, I think, in 1925.

69
00:03:32,350 --> 00:03:33,685
And so then my--

70
00:03:33,685 --> 00:03:34,810
They got married in Vienna?

71
00:03:34,810 --> 00:03:36,070

They got married in Vienna.

72

00:03:36,070 --> 00:03:40,340

Well, I'm not sure about that.

73

00:03:40,340 --> 00:03:42,015

I'm not sure about that.

74

00:03:42,015 --> 00:03:44,140

They might have gone back
to Poland to get married,

75

00:03:44,140 --> 00:03:47,050

but anyway, they lived in
Vienna after they got married.

76

00:03:47,050 --> 00:03:51,120

77

00:03:51,120 --> 00:03:56,990

And then in 1927,
my brother was born.

78

00:03:56,990 --> 00:04:01,590

Now, my mother tells me
about her life in Vienna.

79

00:04:01,590 --> 00:04:03,620

She said, in the beginning,
it was kind of hard.

80

00:04:03,620 --> 00:04:07,880

My father had been
trained as a physician,

81

00:04:07,880 --> 00:04:10,590

and then he went back and
retrained as a dentist.

82

00:04:10,590 --> 00:04:12,950

And he opened his practice.

83

00:04:12,950 --> 00:04:14,990
Now, one of the things
my mother always

84
00:04:14,990 --> 00:04:18,370
told me is that we
lived in [PLACE NAME]..

85
00:04:18,370 --> 00:04:20,519
That's the first
district in Vienna.

86
00:04:20,519 --> 00:04:25,430
And I guess that was not such
a nice or the nicest part

87
00:04:25,430 --> 00:04:26,600
of Vienna.

88
00:04:26,600 --> 00:04:28,520
And it's [PLACE NAME].

89
00:04:28,520 --> 00:04:29,210
Excuse me.

90
00:04:29,210 --> 00:04:33,560
The [PLACE NAME] is where
she would have liked to live.

91
00:04:33,560 --> 00:04:35,930
And she said that
the reason they

92
00:04:35,930 --> 00:04:38,900
lived there was because
my father's office

93
00:04:38,900 --> 00:04:41,870
was in our house, and that's
where he saw patients.

94
00:04:41,870 --> 00:04:48,860
And it was for reasons of the

business that we lived there,

95

00:04:48,860 --> 00:04:51,545

and we lived, actually, I guess,
right overlooking the Danube.

96

00:04:51,545 --> 00:04:55,160

97

00:04:55,160 --> 00:04:57,950

And so in the early years, she
said, things were difficult,

98

00:04:57,950 --> 00:04:59,600

and she helped my father.

99

00:04:59,600 --> 00:05:02,090

She would do things
like answer the phone

100

00:05:02,090 --> 00:05:06,480

and maybe help prep patients
and various other things.

101

00:05:06,480 --> 00:05:10,650

But I guess my father did
pretty well fairly quickly,

102

00:05:10,650 --> 00:05:14,780

and so things kind of perked up.

103

00:05:14,780 --> 00:05:23,510

And I think things
were quite comfortable.

104

00:05:23,510 --> 00:05:24,830

And we had--

105

00:05:24,830 --> 00:05:27,980

I know there were about six
people who used to come and go

106

00:05:27,980 --> 00:05:30,110
in terms of, quote, "servants."

107
00:05:30,110 --> 00:05:35,330
There was a cook
who did our meals.

108
00:05:35,330 --> 00:05:38,430
My brother and I each had a
governess when we were kids.

109
00:05:38,430 --> 00:05:38,930
Each?

110
00:05:38,930 --> 00:05:42,860
Yeah, well, we were very far
apart, so it wasn't concurrent.

111
00:05:42,860 --> 00:05:45,260
Oh, I see.

112
00:05:45,260 --> 00:05:49,220
There were one or two women
who came in to do laundry.

113
00:05:49,220 --> 00:05:51,890
In those days, everything
was a big deal.

114
00:05:51,890 --> 00:05:55,070
Coming in to do the laundry
was taking the sheets,

115
00:05:55,070 --> 00:05:57,470
and boiling them up
with soap and Clorox,

116
00:05:57,470 --> 00:05:59,015
and so on and so forth.

117
00:05:59,015 --> 00:06:00,140
It was kind of a big thing.

118

00:06:00,140 --> 00:06:05,720

And then even we did actually
have a vacuum cleaner,

119

00:06:05,720 --> 00:06:10,520

but I personally remember
that these two cleaning

120

00:06:10,520 --> 00:06:11,750

women used to come.

121

00:06:11,750 --> 00:06:15,980

And they would toll up
the rugs and take them up

122

00:06:15,980 --> 00:06:19,970

to the roof with these
bamboo oddly-shaped paddles

123

00:06:19,970 --> 00:06:22,100

and beat the hell
out of the rugs.

124

00:06:22,100 --> 00:06:25,600

125

00:06:25,600 --> 00:06:27,100

So there were these
servants around.

126

00:06:27,100 --> 00:06:31,450

And at that point, I think
my mother sort of became

127

00:06:31,450 --> 00:06:32,860

a lady of leisure.

128

00:06:32,860 --> 00:06:38,270

And again, I don't know
which of these stories

129

00:06:38,270 --> 00:06:41,480

are true or apocryphal,
but her role

130
00:06:41,480 --> 00:06:44,270
was to put on a white
glove after the servants

131
00:06:44,270 --> 00:06:46,550
and go around to make sure
they had cleaned well.

132
00:06:46,550 --> 00:06:49,190

133
00:06:49,190 --> 00:06:54,150
And I think she went--

134
00:06:54,150 --> 00:06:57,880
I think they did a fair
amount of socializing.

135
00:06:57,880 --> 00:07:01,740
I think they went to the opera,
and they would go dancing

136
00:07:01,740 --> 00:07:04,050
and go to the theater.

137
00:07:04,050 --> 00:07:06,660
And I know they went--

138
00:07:06,660 --> 00:07:08,220
apparently, once
a week they went

139
00:07:08,220 --> 00:07:13,860
to play cards with this relative
who actually-- the daughter

140
00:07:13,860 --> 00:07:16,780
lives in New York now.

141

00:07:16,780 --> 00:07:21,510
So they must have done a
lot of things like that.

142
00:07:21,510 --> 00:07:25,080
I think my father was a
fairly serious person,

143
00:07:25,080 --> 00:07:27,360
and my mother was probably a--

144
00:07:27,360 --> 00:07:31,150

145
00:07:31,150 --> 00:07:33,655
I don't know-- more
frivolous person.

146
00:07:33,655 --> 00:07:36,200

147
00:07:36,200 --> 00:07:38,540
And actually, my
brother apparently

148
00:07:38,540 --> 00:07:40,400
didn't do very
well with my mother

149
00:07:40,400 --> 00:07:42,140
because he was a
very serious kid,

150
00:07:42,140 --> 00:07:44,270
and he really liked my father.

151
00:07:44,270 --> 00:07:47,000
But he thought my mother
wasted her time, even when

152
00:07:47,000 --> 00:07:47,960
he was very little.

153

00:07:47,960 --> 00:07:53,725

154

00:07:53,725 --> 00:07:54,350

Yeah, go ahead.

155

00:07:54,350 --> 00:07:54,975

Can we back up?

156

00:07:54,975 --> 00:07:55,730

Yeah, go ahead.

157

00:07:55,730 --> 00:07:57,830

Do you know about
her life in Poland,

158

00:07:57,830 --> 00:07:59,150

before she moved to Vienna?

159

00:07:59,150 --> 00:08:02,077

Do you know about, for
example, the Jewish aspect

160

00:08:02,077 --> 00:08:02,660

of their life?

161

00:08:02,660 --> 00:08:03,493

Were they religious?

162

00:08:03,493 --> 00:08:04,700

Were they orthodox?

163

00:08:04,700 --> 00:08:08,540

I think her parents
were Orthodox.

164

00:08:08,540 --> 00:08:11,330

165

00:08:11,330 --> 00:08:14,450

I don't know that

my mother really--

166
00:08:14,450 --> 00:08:18,230
my mother always did all
the very traditional kinds

167
00:08:18,230 --> 00:08:21,780
of things, but I'm not sure she
really believed in any of that.

168
00:08:21,780 --> 00:08:26,228

169
00:08:26,228 --> 00:08:26,770
I don't know.

170
00:08:26,770 --> 00:08:28,660
I think she might have--

171
00:08:28,660 --> 00:08:33,580
she certainly had some sorts
of superstitions involved

172
00:08:33,580 --> 00:08:40,890
in Jewish religion, but I have a
funny feeling that she probably

173
00:08:40,890 --> 00:08:43,289
went along with the things.

174
00:08:43,289 --> 00:08:46,170

175
00:08:46,170 --> 00:08:49,320
I don't think she and my father
had-- we didn't have a kosher

176
00:08:49,320 --> 00:08:53,730
home, and I think they did go
to services on the high holidays

177
00:08:53,730 --> 00:08:54,620

and things like that.

178
00:08:54,620 --> 00:08:58,060

179
00:08:58,060 --> 00:09:01,460
I'd be curious to
know whether we--

180
00:09:01,460 --> 00:09:03,740
I'm sure we ate
matzah on Passover,

181
00:09:03,740 --> 00:09:05,858
but the real question is,
did we also eat bread?

182
00:09:05,858 --> 00:09:07,400
And I don't know
what the answer was.

183
00:09:07,400 --> 00:09:09,080
Or like ham and matzah.

184
00:09:09,080 --> 00:09:10,070
Yeah, right.

185
00:09:10,070 --> 00:09:11,840
Right, well, I'm
sure we ate ham.

186
00:09:11,840 --> 00:09:13,670
I'm absolutely sure we ate ham.

187
00:09:13,670 --> 00:09:18,520

188
00:09:18,520 --> 00:09:24,250
Well, no, we probably didn't
eat bread at Passover,

189
00:09:24,250 --> 00:09:28,750

but I don't think it
was terribly compulsive.

190
00:09:28,750 --> 00:09:31,210
I think it was fairly casual.

191
00:09:31,210 --> 00:09:34,000
But I have a feeling that
her father was probably

192
00:09:34,000 --> 00:09:36,670
not very casual, and I
don't know about her mother.

193
00:09:36,670 --> 00:09:40,420
I have a feeling that the
mother was a more worldly woman,

194
00:09:40,420 --> 00:09:43,780
and the father may have
been a more retiring

195
00:09:43,780 --> 00:09:45,370
religious kind of person.

196
00:09:45,370 --> 00:09:49,580

197
00:09:49,580 --> 00:09:58,660
I think that my mother always
felt that she was the black--

198
00:09:58,660 --> 00:10:02,270
or that she was considered
the black sheep, that

199
00:10:02,270 --> 00:10:04,400
not by her mother
but by her father,

200
00:10:04,400 --> 00:10:06,560
that her father didn't
like her as well as he

201
00:10:06,560 --> 00:10:07,715
liked the other two kids.

202
00:10:07,715 --> 00:10:10,500

203
00:10:10,500 --> 00:10:13,380
And I think she thought
that was because she

204
00:10:13,380 --> 00:10:17,340
was sort of rebellious
and didn't do the things

205
00:10:17,340 --> 00:10:19,650
that the other kids did.

206
00:10:19,650 --> 00:10:23,490

207
00:10:23,490 --> 00:10:28,050
Definitely my mother's
brother and sister sound

208
00:10:28,050 --> 00:10:31,770
like more traditional kids.

209
00:10:31,770 --> 00:10:34,560
They got married,
and they had kids.

210
00:10:34,560 --> 00:10:40,710
And they stayed, I think,
in the same town or nearby,

211
00:10:40,710 --> 00:10:45,030
and here was this young
chick going off to Vienna

212
00:10:45,030 --> 00:10:49,410
and marrying strange people.

213
00:10:49,410 --> 00:10:52,170
Did she ever find out the
exact fate of her family?

214
00:10:52,170 --> 00:10:55,440

215
00:10:55,440 --> 00:10:56,340
Yeah.

216
00:10:56,340 --> 00:11:03,240
Well, in 1946, when I
would have been 12--

217
00:11:03,240 --> 00:11:05,790
and I remember this
very dramatically--

218
00:11:05,790 --> 00:11:10,980
there was a blue letter
that came from somebody,

219
00:11:10,980 --> 00:11:12,160
one of her relatives.

220
00:11:12,160 --> 00:11:17,055
And I think it might have been
this guy called [? Moche ?]

221
00:11:17,055 --> 00:11:22,080
[? Weinreb, ?] who went to
live in Israel and whose son is

222
00:11:22,080 --> 00:11:25,320
in Israel and is a
physician, I think.

223
00:11:25,320 --> 00:11:28,530
And of course, I lost
contact after my mother died.

224

00:11:28,530 --> 00:11:32,940

But I think the letter
was from this guy,

225

00:11:32,940 --> 00:11:37,440
[? Moche ?] [? Weinhaub, ?] and
it told in very great detail

226

00:11:37,440 --> 00:11:39,450
what happened to
all the relatives.

227

00:11:39,450 --> 00:11:44,020
And, well, they all perished
in one form or another.

228

00:11:44,020 --> 00:11:46,780
Now, my mother's sister--

229

00:11:46,780 --> 00:11:48,190
that was the most
dramatic thing.

230

00:11:48,190 --> 00:11:50,290
Apparently, they
forced her to watch

231

00:11:50,290 --> 00:11:52,450
while they threw her
kids into an oven,

232

00:11:52,450 --> 00:11:55,720
and then they shot her.

233

00:11:55,720 --> 00:11:58,570
That was really a horror story.

234

00:11:58,570 --> 00:12:04,700
I think my mother's brother
and maybe the parents--

235

00:12:04,700 --> 00:12:08,090
I remember him describing that

a lot of people in the camp

236

00:12:08,090 --> 00:12:13,220
had typhoid, and they purposely
tried to contract typhoid.

237

00:12:13,220 --> 00:12:18,900
And they did, and so they died
of the typhoid because they--

238

00:12:18,900 --> 00:12:20,400
they purposely did
that because they

239

00:12:20,400 --> 00:12:24,510
didn't want to die in what
they knew was awaiting them.

240

00:12:24,510 --> 00:12:27,570
And they were just descriptions
of what happened to everybody

241

00:12:27,570 --> 00:12:31,020
that he knew about, and
I don't know whatever

242

00:12:31,020 --> 00:12:33,570
happened to that letter.

243

00:12:33,570 --> 00:12:34,650
As a matter of fact--

244

00:12:34,650 --> 00:12:37,600
it's really weird--
this is my mother's.

245

00:12:37,600 --> 00:12:40,080
Those two pieces of
furniture are my mother's.

246

00:12:40,080 --> 00:12:41,970
And since my mother
died, I have not

247
00:12:41,970 --> 00:12:45,130
been able to find
the key to this,

248
00:12:45,130 --> 00:12:47,505
and every once in a while
I try to get it open--

249
00:12:47,505 --> 00:12:48,130
How intriguing.

250
00:12:48,130 --> 00:12:49,840
--because I keep
thinking that maybe

251
00:12:49,840 --> 00:12:52,930
there are some letters
and things in there.

252
00:12:52,930 --> 00:12:54,970
And I know I could
probably get a locksmith--

253
00:12:54,970 --> 00:12:55,900
I'm sure you could.

254
00:12:55,900 --> 00:13:00,370
--to open it, but I probably
have mixed feelings.

255
00:13:00,370 --> 00:13:02,860
Part of me wants to know what's
behind those little doors,

256
00:13:02,860 --> 00:13:04,300
and part of me probably doesn't.

257
00:13:04,300 --> 00:13:07,000

258
00:13:07,000 --> 00:13:17,320

Anyway, but my mother--

259

00:13:17,320 --> 00:13:20,230

well, I think my mother was
a very, very different person

260

00:13:20,230 --> 00:13:24,160

after the war from what she was
before, although I can't really

261

00:13:24,160 --> 00:13:25,100

judge that.

262

00:13:25,100 --> 00:13:28,230

It's kind of a guess.

263

00:13:28,230 --> 00:13:29,110

So I made you jump.

264

00:13:29,110 --> 00:13:32,080

Now why don't we come
back to close to the time

265

00:13:32,080 --> 00:13:34,868

that she had given birth
to your brother, I guess.

266

00:13:34,868 --> 00:13:35,410

In what year?

267

00:13:35,410 --> 00:13:43,610

Right, 1927, right,
April 24, 1927.

268

00:13:43,610 --> 00:13:46,940

And my brother was apparently
a very serious little boy,

269

00:13:46,940 --> 00:13:49,820

even at age two, and my mother
always told stories about

270

00:13:49,820 --> 00:13:52,610
how, when she
would go for a walk

271
00:13:52,610 --> 00:13:59,890
with him, instead of
wanting to play and so on,

272
00:13:59,890 --> 00:14:01,952
he would want to have her
read the street signs.

273
00:14:01,952 --> 00:14:03,910
What does that say, how
do you spell that, what

274
00:14:03,910 --> 00:14:05,170
are the letters, and so on.

275
00:14:05,170 --> 00:14:09,070

276
00:14:09,070 --> 00:14:11,290
That's her perception.

277
00:14:11,290 --> 00:14:14,140
I have a picture of my
brother sitting all dressed up

278
00:14:14,140 --> 00:14:18,760
with little Lord Fauntleroy tie
in a sandbox with his rear end

279
00:14:18,760 --> 00:14:22,990
up off the sand so he
wouldn't get himself dirty.

280
00:14:22,990 --> 00:14:28,270
And my brother tells
with some resentment

281
00:14:28,270 --> 00:14:31,630
that he wasn't allowed to be a

little boy because they dressed

282

00:14:31,630 --> 00:14:34,000

him up, and he always felt
he couldn't get dirty.

283

00:14:34,000 --> 00:14:39,040

So I think there were a lot
of interesting dynamics there.

284

00:14:39,040 --> 00:14:44,660

And then at age three they
started him on violin lessons,

285

00:14:44,660 --> 00:14:46,510

and somehow it didn't work out.

286

00:14:46,510 --> 00:14:48,610

So they stopped, at the
advice of the teacher,

287

00:14:48,610 --> 00:14:51,490

I guess, and then he
started again at age five.

288

00:14:51,490 --> 00:14:54,280

And then it really
took hold very well,

289

00:14:54,280 --> 00:14:57,640

and he really did
play the violin.

290

00:14:57,640 --> 00:15:01,030

If you ask him, he'll say, well,
I can't really play very well,

291

00:15:01,030 --> 00:15:03,250

but he really plays.

292

00:15:03,250 --> 00:15:06,310

For an amateur, he
plays extremely well.

293
00:15:06,310 --> 00:15:12,580

294
00:15:12,580 --> 00:15:15,640
Well then, when my father died--

295
00:15:15,640 --> 00:15:20,200
well, first, my father
got very depressed, well,

296
00:15:20,200 --> 00:15:23,020
because things were obviously
looking really bad in Europe.

297
00:15:23,020 --> 00:15:26,170

298
00:15:26,170 --> 00:15:30,040
Well, I really should back up.

299
00:15:30,040 --> 00:15:35,290
Starting in 1933, I think things
started being politically very

300
00:15:35,290 --> 00:15:41,280
hairy, and people had just
come out of the Depression.

301
00:15:41,280 --> 00:15:45,690
And as an aside, all my life
I was always really bothered

302
00:15:45,690 --> 00:15:49,560
that I might have been
an accident because I'm

303
00:15:49,560 --> 00:15:51,900
seven and a half years
younger than my brother,

304
00:15:51,900 --> 00:15:54,382

and subliminally that
always bothered me.

305
00:15:54,382 --> 00:15:56,340
And I never had the guts
to ask anybody, which,

306
00:15:56,340 --> 00:15:57,465
in retrospect, seems silly.

307
00:15:57,465 --> 00:16:01,500
But actually, I was over 40
once when I asked my brother,

308
00:16:01,500 --> 00:16:02,970
was I an accident,
and my brother

309
00:16:02,970 --> 00:16:05,190
said, no, absolutely not.

310
00:16:05,190 --> 00:16:06,330
Why did they wait so long?

311
00:16:06,330 --> 00:16:08,160
Because of the depression.

312
00:16:08,160 --> 00:16:16,600
So I was born in 1934, in
November, and so things were--

313
00:16:16,600 --> 00:16:19,000
now, as I think back on it,
it was a really dumb time

314
00:16:19,000 --> 00:16:22,850
to have a kid because things
were not looking good.

315
00:16:22,850 --> 00:16:28,010
And did I send you
the article that I

316

00:16:28,010 --> 00:16:30,840
wrote for Boston Magazine?

317

00:16:30,840 --> 00:16:34,060
You sent me one
about your cousin.

318

00:16:34,060 --> 00:16:36,580
I didn't send you mine
from Boston Magazine?

319

00:16:36,580 --> 00:16:38,560
I should give that
to you because that's

320

00:16:38,560 --> 00:16:40,270
sort of about this subject.

321

00:16:40,270 --> 00:16:43,930
Anyway, so then I was
born, and then things

322

00:16:43,930 --> 00:16:45,670
started getting bad.

323

00:16:45,670 --> 00:16:47,020
And they got worse and worse.

324

00:16:47,020 --> 00:16:51,310
And my father and
mother started talking

325

00:16:51,310 --> 00:16:54,940
about the possibility
of going to America,

326

00:16:54,940 --> 00:17:05,839
and apparently, my father
just felt-- well, no, in 1934,

327

00:17:05,839 --> 00:17:11,569
my father was already 40

years old, so his feeling was,

328

00:17:11,569 --> 00:17:12,839
how can I go to America?

329

00:17:12,839 --> 00:17:14,240
I don't know the language.

330

00:17:14,240 --> 00:17:16,400
I would have to retrain.

331

00:17:16,400 --> 00:17:19,680
We would get there, and
we would have nothing.

332

00:17:19,680 --> 00:17:26,099
And so it just didn't seem
like a reasonable thing to do.

333

00:17:26,099 --> 00:17:31,400
But then in August of
1938, I think it was,

334

00:17:31,400 --> 00:17:33,590
my father, like
everybody else, had

335

00:17:33,590 --> 00:17:35,840
to close his practice
because Jews were not

336

00:17:35,840 --> 00:17:40,230
allowed to work anymore,
and my father got really,

337

00:17:40,230 --> 00:17:41,870
really very, very depressed.

338

00:17:41,870 --> 00:17:45,060

339

00:17:45,060 --> 00:17:47,320

And my brother--

340
00:17:47,320 --> 00:17:52,080
I think my brother really
still has and had all that time

341
00:17:52,080 --> 00:17:56,490
a really tremendous resentment
about my mother not handling

342
00:17:56,490 --> 00:17:57,180
that right.

343
00:17:57,180 --> 00:18:01,050

344
00:18:01,050 --> 00:18:03,100
And I've asked him
about that, and he says,

345
00:18:03,100 --> 00:18:07,665
well, she used to say, well,
you got to come out of this.

346
00:18:07,665 --> 00:18:11,460
You can't walk around like this.

347
00:18:11,460 --> 00:18:15,780
And she would kind of
go off, then, and do

348
00:18:15,780 --> 00:18:18,760
whatever needed to be done.

349
00:18:18,760 --> 00:18:20,710
And I said to my brother,
well, what'd you do?

350
00:18:20,710 --> 00:18:24,240
And he said, well, I remember
standing in a dark room holding

351

00:18:24,240 --> 00:18:26,720
his hand just quietly.

352
00:18:26,720 --> 00:18:29,720

353
00:18:29,720 --> 00:18:40,580
Now that I'm at my present age
and our kids are 22 and 24,

354
00:18:40,580 --> 00:18:43,910
I realize that it was just
a very difficult situation

355
00:18:43,910 --> 00:18:45,440
for my mother.

356
00:18:45,440 --> 00:18:47,840
If somebody else is just
very depressed all the time

357
00:18:47,840 --> 00:18:52,130
and you really don't know how
to get the person out of it,

358
00:18:52,130 --> 00:18:57,470
I think, after a while, maybe
it's a kind of survival thing

359
00:18:57,470 --> 00:19:01,720
that you've got
to just keep doing

360
00:19:01,720 --> 00:19:03,470
your daily things
because otherwise you're

361
00:19:03,470 --> 00:19:05,230
going to go insane also.

362
00:19:05,230 --> 00:19:08,650
And so I don't know.

363

00:19:08,650 --> 00:19:10,490

I don't know what
was going on there,

364

00:19:10,490 --> 00:19:14,690

but it was a really
bad scenario.

365

00:19:14,690 --> 00:19:20,320

And really very unpleasant
things were happening to Jews,

366

00:19:20,320 --> 00:19:23,020

and I'm sure that my father must
have been extremely frightened.

367

00:19:23,020 --> 00:19:30,590

And there's a woman who actually
went to medical and then

368

00:19:30,590 --> 00:19:34,430

dental school with my
father, and we were always

369

00:19:34,430 --> 00:19:37,310

friendly with that family.

370

00:19:37,310 --> 00:19:40,100

And for example,
that woman was forced

371

00:19:40,100 --> 00:19:43,010

to go out and scrub the streets
and things like-- so there were

372

00:19:43,010 --> 00:19:44,690

all sorts of demeaning
things happening,

373

00:19:44,690 --> 00:19:48,230

and I think it must have been
just a terrible, terrible time

374
00:19:48,230 --> 00:19:49,590
psychologically.

375
00:19:49,590 --> 00:19:52,140
Until the time that he was
forced to stop working,

376
00:19:52,140 --> 00:19:53,480
he worked regularly?

377
00:19:53,480 --> 00:19:55,642
Yes, I think he did
work regularly, yes.

378
00:19:55,642 --> 00:19:58,100
Even if maybe he was beginning
to be depressed or whatever,

379
00:19:58,100 --> 00:19:59,300
he didn't [INAUDIBLE].

380
00:19:59,300 --> 00:20:00,810
No, I don't think so.

381
00:20:00,810 --> 00:20:03,500
I think he really got
very depressed after he

382
00:20:03,500 --> 00:20:05,030
had to close his practice.

383
00:20:05,030 --> 00:20:06,720
Now, I don't know that for sure.

384
00:20:06,720 --> 00:20:10,940
I just know that from
things that I've gathered.

385
00:20:10,940 --> 00:20:14,600
So anyway, my mother,
I think, tried

386

00:20:14,600 --> 00:20:17,750

to keep going
about her business,

387

00:20:17,750 --> 00:20:22,580

and somewhere in
this time span they

388

00:20:22,580 --> 00:20:25,370

did decide that they
would have to leave.

389

00:20:25,370 --> 00:20:30,380

And so they went and applied
for visas, and passports,

390

00:20:30,380 --> 00:20:35,240

and so on, and on the morning
of September 30, 1938,

391

00:20:35,240 --> 00:20:38,450

my father and mother actually
left the house together

392

00:20:38,450 --> 00:20:40,730

to go pick up those passports.

393

00:20:40,730 --> 00:20:42,590

And they picked
up the passports,

394

00:20:42,590 --> 00:20:48,650

and at about noontime, they
parted to do separate chores.

395

00:20:48,650 --> 00:20:51,410

And they were
supposed to meet, I

396

00:20:51,410 --> 00:20:55,440

think, at the home
of this cousin

397

00:20:55,440 --> 00:21:00,930

where they used to play
cards, and apparently

398

00:21:00,930 --> 00:21:02,570

my father never got there.

399

00:21:02,570 --> 00:21:05,910

And I guess at about
2:30 in the afternoon--

400

00:21:05,910 --> 00:21:08,400

I seem to remember
somebody telling me--

401

00:21:08,400 --> 00:21:10,260

there was a phone
call, and my father

402

00:21:10,260 --> 00:21:13,860

had been found at the
bottom of a staircase.

403

00:21:13,860 --> 00:21:16,290

And I'm not sure whether
he was already dead

404

00:21:16,290 --> 00:21:19,055

or whether he died either on
the way to the hospital or right

405

00:21:19,055 --> 00:21:21,180

after he got to hospital,
but the death certificate

406

00:21:21,180 --> 00:21:27,420

says that he died of
multiple fractures,

407

00:21:27,420 --> 00:21:30,195

including a fractured skull
and lots of fractured ribs.

408

00:21:30,195 --> 00:21:34,050

409

00:21:34,050 --> 00:21:36,210

So all my life, I
grew up thinking

410

00:21:36,210 --> 00:21:40,350

that he had thrown himself off
the top floor, the fourth floor

411

00:21:40,350 --> 00:21:42,300

of this, down the stairwell.

412

00:21:42,300 --> 00:21:45,690

413

00:21:45,690 --> 00:21:47,940

And there was a lot
of trauma around that.

414

00:21:47,940 --> 00:21:50,410

My mother did not want--

415

00:21:50,410 --> 00:21:52,110

well, so the general
consensus was

416

00:21:52,110 --> 00:21:53,790

that he had committed suicide.

417

00:21:53,790 --> 00:21:58,170

My mother didn't want
anybody to know that.

418

00:21:58,170 --> 00:22:00,870

And I don't understand--

419

00:22:00,870 --> 00:22:01,370

it's funny.

420

00:22:01,370 --> 00:22:03,537
Children don't ask the right
questions all the time,

421
00:22:03,537 --> 00:22:06,320
but I just took that on gospel.

422
00:22:06,320 --> 00:22:11,450
And I never ever said
anything until quite recently

423
00:22:11,450 --> 00:22:12,500
about that.

424
00:22:12,500 --> 00:22:13,910
I never told it.

425
00:22:13,910 --> 00:22:17,240
Practically no one
did I tell this to.

426
00:22:17,240 --> 00:22:20,480
And when I was discussing
it with my brother recently,

427
00:22:20,480 --> 00:22:24,770
he said, well, I've
never kept this a secret.

428
00:22:24,770 --> 00:22:27,470
And then a few years ago,
when I started really thinking

429
00:22:27,470 --> 00:22:30,200
about this, I started
thinking, well, now,

430
00:22:30,200 --> 00:22:32,198
how do we know he
committed suicide?

431
00:22:32,198 --> 00:22:33,740
And people say, oh,

well, you're just

432

00:22:33,740 --> 00:22:38,820
trying to protect yourself
from this sort of thing.

433

00:22:38,820 --> 00:22:41,810
Well, first of all, I don't
have anything against suicide.

434

00:22:41,810 --> 00:22:47,050
I just don't-- in general,
it wouldn't bother me.

435

00:22:47,050 --> 00:22:50,620
Now, I keep asking
myself, does it bother me

436

00:22:50,620 --> 00:22:52,270
if he did commit suicide?

437

00:22:52,270 --> 00:22:54,460
Well, I don't know.

438

00:22:54,460 --> 00:22:57,730
I suppose in one way it doesn't
bother me, and in another way,

439

00:22:57,730 --> 00:23:02,710
I think, well,
this was a shirking

440

00:23:02,710 --> 00:23:04,060
of your responsibility.

441

00:23:04,060 --> 00:23:07,090
You had two kids, and this
was not the appropriate thing

442

00:23:07,090 --> 00:23:10,250
to do, to leave your wife
alone with these two kids.

443

00:23:10,250 --> 00:23:14,470

My brother's idea is
that my father probably

444

00:23:14,470 --> 00:23:20,170

did commit suicide and that one
of the reasons that he did it,

445

00:23:20,170 --> 00:23:23,200

aside from being depressed--

446

00:23:23,200 --> 00:23:26,740

people were committing
suicide right and left--

447

00:23:26,740 --> 00:23:32,920

was that he probably figured
that a woman with two children

448

00:23:32,920 --> 00:23:37,090

would have a much better
chance of escaping if there was

449

00:23:37,090 --> 00:23:41,500

no husband around because,
at that time, mostly

450

00:23:41,500 --> 00:23:44,710

it was the men who were being
really harassed initially.

451

00:23:44,710 --> 00:23:48,260

452

00:23:48,260 --> 00:23:49,370

So I don't know.

453

00:23:49,370 --> 00:23:53,840

But now, as a scientist,
I stop, and I think,

454

00:23:53,840 --> 00:23:56,360

well, there was nobody
there to see this,

455
00:23:56,360 --> 00:23:58,970
and all sorts of horrible
things were happening to Jews.

456
00:23:58,970 --> 00:24:00,620
How do we know what
really happened?

457
00:24:00,620 --> 00:24:02,980
Could he have been pushed?

458
00:24:02,980 --> 00:24:05,840
And I think the chances
are 90% that he probably

459
00:24:05,840 --> 00:24:07,590
did commit suicide.

460
00:24:07,590 --> 00:24:10,700
Now, the other
thing is that I keep

461
00:24:10,700 --> 00:24:17,800
thinking, why would somebody
with a medical profession who

462
00:24:17,800 --> 00:24:19,990
has access to much
neater, cleaner

463
00:24:19,990 --> 00:24:24,310
ways of committing suicide
throw himself off a stairwell?

464
00:24:24,310 --> 00:24:26,620
So that's another reason
why I think that maybe he

465
00:24:26,620 --> 00:24:28,430
didn't do it himself.

466

00:24:28,430 --> 00:24:35,550
On the other hand, I suppose
that when people commit suicide

467

00:24:35,550 --> 00:24:38,470
they're not necessarily
being totally rational.

468

00:24:38,470 --> 00:24:39,903
Well, some people plan it out.

469

00:24:39,903 --> 00:24:41,320
This sounds like
it perhaps hadn't

470

00:24:41,320 --> 00:24:44,330
been contemplated for too
long or this specific act,

471

00:24:44,330 --> 00:24:44,830
if it was.

472

00:24:44,830 --> 00:24:45,582
I don't know.

473

00:24:45,582 --> 00:24:47,790
I don't know, but somebody
recently pointed out to me

474

00:24:47,790 --> 00:24:51,065
that Primo Levi, who was
also a scientist and also

475

00:24:51,065 --> 00:24:53,190
had more sophisticated
means of committing suicide,

476

00:24:53,190 --> 00:24:55,370
apparently also jumped
off something or else.

477

00:24:55,370 --> 00:24:55,870
Yes, he did.

478
00:24:55,870 --> 00:24:59,830
And I think he did it in his
basement or something, yeah.

479
00:24:59,830 --> 00:25:03,170
Anyway, so the answer is,
I don't know what happened.

480
00:25:03,170 --> 00:25:06,280
But anyway, when this
happened, my mother

481
00:25:06,280 --> 00:25:09,910
was just totally
devastated, just--

482
00:25:09,910 --> 00:25:11,528
Before we-- I hate to--

483
00:25:11,528 --> 00:25:12,070
No, go ahead.

484
00:25:12,070 --> 00:25:12,940
No, I don't mind.

485
00:25:12,940 --> 00:25:15,670
--break the train of thought.

486
00:25:15,670 --> 00:25:19,210
But do you remember anything
about her personality

487
00:25:19,210 --> 00:25:23,060
before this time, when
you were very, very young?

488
00:25:23,060 --> 00:25:27,220
No, I don't remember very
much about her, except--

489

00:25:27,220 --> 00:25:30,640

I remember a few silly things.

490

00:25:30,640 --> 00:25:33,940

Like I used to like
to go into the kitchen

491

00:25:33,940 --> 00:25:37,330

and dry the dishes for
the cook, and the cook

492

00:25:37,330 --> 00:25:39,160

would stand me up
on a little stool

493

00:25:39,160 --> 00:25:40,690

and hand me one dish at a time.

494

00:25:40,690 --> 00:25:42,730

And I would dry it.

495

00:25:42,730 --> 00:25:44,530

And I also liked to iron.

496

00:25:44,530 --> 00:25:47,200

In those days, there
was no electric iron,

497

00:25:47,200 --> 00:25:49,270

and so they had those
irons that you kind of had

498

00:25:49,270 --> 00:25:51,790

to keep putting on the
stove until they get hot.

499

00:25:51,790 --> 00:25:53,500

And I used to like to iron.

500

00:25:53,500 --> 00:25:58,930

And my mother really didn't
like me to do those things,

501
00:25:58,930 --> 00:26:03,700
and I loved to do those things.

502
00:26:03,700 --> 00:26:07,150
So maybe she was already
overly-protective

503
00:26:07,150 --> 00:26:07,960
before the war.

504
00:26:07,960 --> 00:26:09,880
I'm not sure.

505
00:26:09,880 --> 00:26:11,660
You still like to iron?

506
00:26:11,660 --> 00:26:13,247
No, I don't like to--

507
00:26:13,247 --> 00:26:14,080
And we have to iron.

508
00:26:14,080 --> 00:26:17,320
I don't mind, but I don't like
to-- no, I don't like to iron,

509
00:26:17,320 --> 00:26:20,500
and I hate to dry dishes,
as a matter of fact.

510
00:26:20,500 --> 00:26:22,720
As a matter of fact,
I think my mother used

511
00:26:22,720 --> 00:26:26,890
to kid me about that because
then, when we came to New York

512
00:26:26,890 --> 00:26:29,470
and she wanted help with those
things, she would tease me

513

00:26:29,470 --> 00:26:31,660
and say, you used to love to do
it when I didn't want you to,

514

00:26:31,660 --> 00:26:33,370
and now when I want you to
you don't want to do it.

515

00:26:33,370 --> 00:26:35,527
Well, it seems to me
that's fairly self-evident

516

00:26:35,527 --> 00:26:36,610
that it would be that way.

517

00:26:36,610 --> 00:26:43,010
But do I remember
anything else about her?

518

00:26:43,010 --> 00:26:46,050

519

00:26:46,050 --> 00:26:50,130
No, I actually remember
more about my interactions

520

00:26:50,130 --> 00:26:51,735
with the governess
and the servants.

521

00:26:51,735 --> 00:26:56,300

522

00:26:56,300 --> 00:27:00,830
For example, the things that
I remember about the servants

523

00:27:00,830 --> 00:27:05,630
is that they were fun for me,
and the reasons they were fun

524

00:27:05,630 --> 00:27:08,660
was that they would come in and
do all these routine things.

525
00:27:08,660 --> 00:27:13,130
Like we had a very long
hallway because the apartment

526
00:27:13,130 --> 00:27:16,400
was two seven-room apartments
with the wall broken down

527
00:27:16,400 --> 00:27:18,170
between them, so
there were 14 rooms.

528
00:27:18,170 --> 00:27:20,450
And they all went off
this one long hallway,

529
00:27:20,450 --> 00:27:23,690
and we had this runner rug.

530
00:27:23,690 --> 00:27:26,117
And so they would roll that
up every time they came,

531
00:27:26,117 --> 00:27:28,700
and I don't know whether it was
every day, or every other day,

532
00:27:28,700 --> 00:27:29,700
or whatever.

533
00:27:29,700 --> 00:27:32,660
And so they would let me sit
on the end of the runner,

534
00:27:32,660 --> 00:27:35,600
and then they would start
rolling it, pull, roll, pull.

535
00:27:35,600 --> 00:27:36,920

And so I'd get a ride.

536

00:27:36,920 --> 00:27:38,630

Or if they were
sweeping the floor,

537

00:27:38,630 --> 00:27:42,450

they'd let me put my two feet
on the broom and sweep with me.

538

00:27:42,450 --> 00:27:43,910

Or if they were
folding the sheets,

539

00:27:43,910 --> 00:27:47,390

they'd put me inside the sheet
and swing me back and forth

540

00:27:47,390 --> 00:27:48,270

and things like that.

541

00:27:48,270 --> 00:27:53,510

So those were kind of
exciting things for me.

542

00:27:53,510 --> 00:28:01,850

And also, I think my governess
had a cot in my room,

543

00:28:01,850 --> 00:28:06,050

so I remember her being there.

544

00:28:06,050 --> 00:28:12,140

I think it was probably kind
of a consoling feeling that--

545

00:28:12,140 --> 00:28:16,430

I don't know whether she was
there all the time or what,

546

00:28:16,430 --> 00:28:25,920

but I don't ever remember the
thing of being left alone.

547

00:28:25,920 --> 00:28:29,510

But then early on, I
think I did get left alone

548

00:28:29,510 --> 00:28:32,240

at night to sleep because
my brother tells me

549

00:28:32,240 --> 00:28:34,190

I was an absolute
royal pain, that I

550

00:28:34,190 --> 00:28:36,920

used to scream
through the nights,

551

00:28:36,920 --> 00:28:40,010

and the governess would not
let my mother come to me.

552

00:28:40,010 --> 00:28:45,720

553

00:28:45,720 --> 00:28:47,490

But I don't really
remember a lot

554

00:28:47,490 --> 00:28:52,230

about my mother in those
days, and I certainly

555

00:28:52,230 --> 00:28:56,040

do not remember my father.

556

00:28:56,040 --> 00:28:59,880

The funny thing is, I remember
remembering my father,

557

00:28:59,880 --> 00:29:03,660

but then I remember one day,
when I must have been about 10

558

00:29:03,660 --> 00:29:06,960
or something, looking at
this picture of my father

559

00:29:06,960 --> 00:29:09,630
that my mother always
had on her night table

560

00:29:09,630 --> 00:29:14,040
and suddenly realizing that
the real memory of my father

561

00:29:14,040 --> 00:29:18,150
had been taken over by
the memory of the picture

562

00:29:18,150 --> 00:29:23,710
and that I no longer had
that real memory that I

563

00:29:23,710 --> 00:29:25,030
had originally.

564

00:29:25,030 --> 00:29:29,680

565

00:29:29,680 --> 00:29:34,510
So I remember my room
in Vienna, and I think

566

00:29:34,510 --> 00:29:36,163
I remember the dining room.

567

00:29:36,163 --> 00:29:37,705
And I certainly
remember the kitchen.

568

00:29:37,705 --> 00:29:41,002

569

00:29:41,002 --> 00:29:43,660
Do you want to

describe them at all?

570

00:29:43,660 --> 00:29:44,760

Well, the dining room--

571

00:29:44,760 --> 00:29:48,870

I seem to remember it
was very formal and dark.

572

00:29:48,870 --> 00:29:50,100

It seemed dark in there.

573

00:29:50,100 --> 00:29:52,017

I don't know whether it
was because there were

574

00:29:52,017 --> 00:29:53,740

curtains drawn or something.

575

00:29:53,740 --> 00:29:56,220

And we did have, in New
York, the table that

576

00:29:56,220 --> 00:29:59,790

was in that dining room,
and it was dark, probably

577

00:29:59,790 --> 00:30:03,450

mahogany or something, massive.

578

00:30:03,450 --> 00:30:07,680

The furniture we had in Vienna
was this sort of massive thing

579

00:30:07,680 --> 00:30:11,070

that was popular in the 1930s.

580

00:30:11,070 --> 00:30:12,930

I just remember the
big table in the middle

581

00:30:12,930 --> 00:30:15,310

and looking in there, and
it was, I just remember,

582
00:30:15,310 --> 00:30:16,530
a sort of formal feeling.

583
00:30:16,530 --> 00:30:18,780
The kitchen was sort
of light and airy,

584
00:30:18,780 --> 00:30:21,690
and there was this white--

585
00:30:21,690 --> 00:30:24,090
in Vienna, there were
no built-in closets,

586
00:30:24,090 --> 00:30:26,060
and so people had--

587
00:30:26,060 --> 00:30:27,810
I don't know if they
were called wardrobes

588
00:30:27,810 --> 00:30:29,227
or-- and in the
kitchen, there was

589
00:30:29,227 --> 00:30:36,450
a white, lacquered, big
wardrobe with two doors that

590
00:30:36,450 --> 00:30:39,630
opened with keys, these
kinds of old-fashioned keys,

591
00:30:39,630 --> 00:30:43,710
and I think the cook had
like dish towels in there.

592
00:30:43,710 --> 00:30:50,760
And one memory that becomes very
important for Kristallnacht--

593

00:30:50,760 --> 00:30:52,995

she had-- and actually,
I have one upstairs.

594

00:30:52,995 --> 00:30:54,870

There were these little
things you could buy.

595

00:30:54,870 --> 00:30:56,550

Pastilles, they were called.

596

00:30:56,550 --> 00:31:01,470

They were awful-tasting
things, minty or something,

597

00:31:01,470 --> 00:31:07,220

and they came in either
single boxes or triple boxes.

598

00:31:07,220 --> 00:31:09,290

And I don't know if there
were double-sized ones,

599

00:31:09,290 --> 00:31:11,780

but they were green
and gold cans.

600

00:31:11,780 --> 00:31:13,910

And the cook had
a triple size one

601

00:31:13,910 --> 00:31:15,980

of those in that white
closet, and whenever

602

00:31:15,980 --> 00:31:19,580

she had extra Groschen, which
are the equivalent of pennies,

603

00:31:19,580 --> 00:31:23,120

she would put them
into that can.

604
00:31:23,120 --> 00:31:29,250
So must there must have
been some connection to me

605
00:31:29,250 --> 00:31:30,318
about that can.

606
00:31:30,318 --> 00:31:31,860
I don't know what
it could have been.

607
00:31:31,860 --> 00:31:34,170
Maybe she bought me things
with those occasionally

608
00:31:34,170 --> 00:31:37,190
or something.

609
00:31:37,190 --> 00:31:39,850
But anyway, and then there
was this long hallway,

610
00:31:39,850 --> 00:31:42,700
and I remember my
room quite well.

611
00:31:42,700 --> 00:31:47,170
My room had a nice window which
I think overlooked the river,

612
00:31:47,170 --> 00:31:49,570
and then there was
a dresser over here

613
00:31:49,570 --> 00:31:54,670
with a stuffed animal on it
and then my crib, which was not

614
00:31:54,670 --> 00:31:57,940
like an American crib but had--

615

00:31:57,940 --> 00:32:00,340
the part that goes up
and down had a mesh

616
00:32:00,340 --> 00:32:04,450
of ropes going both ways.

617
00:32:04,450 --> 00:32:08,390
That was the way cribs were
made in that time, I think.

618
00:32:08,390 --> 00:32:12,550
And then there was this cot
that the governess used to--

619
00:32:12,550 --> 00:32:16,420
I don't know-- maybe
nap on or whatever.

620
00:32:16,420 --> 00:32:19,670
I don't think it
was a very big room.

621
00:32:19,670 --> 00:32:21,010
I sort of liked that room.

622
00:32:21,010 --> 00:32:23,700

623
00:32:23,700 --> 00:32:25,950
And then I remember
my father's office,

624
00:32:25,950 --> 00:32:27,990
my father's examining
room, and I remember

625
00:32:27,990 --> 00:32:30,660
the linoleum on the floor.

626
00:32:30,660 --> 00:32:32,610
And that becomes
important for later

627
00:32:32,610 --> 00:32:38,610
when we went back to Vienna
in 1963 and I recognized that.

628
00:32:38,610 --> 00:32:41,010
But anyway, so then the next--

629
00:32:41,010 --> 00:32:46,410
my big memory is the
night of Kristallnacht,

630
00:32:46,410 --> 00:32:50,250
and my mother was holding
me up in her arms.

631
00:32:50,250 --> 00:32:52,680
And my brother was--

632
00:32:52,680 --> 00:32:54,600
of course, my father
was dead by now.

633
00:32:54,600 --> 00:33:00,970
My brother was holding
onto my mother's skirt,

634
00:33:00,970 --> 00:33:04,240
and there was this
loud knock on the door.

635
00:33:04,240 --> 00:33:05,860
And my mother said, who's there?

636
00:33:05,860 --> 00:33:10,060
And the superintendent
was there.

637
00:33:10,060 --> 00:33:12,490
See, now, I only remember
the superintendent

638

00:33:12,490 --> 00:33:14,890
and one other man,
but my brother

639
00:33:14,890 --> 00:33:18,700
says there were actually
five or six men who came.

640
00:33:18,700 --> 00:33:22,630
And my mother went to open the
little metal thing on the glass

641
00:33:22,630 --> 00:33:26,080
peephole, and this
guy smashed the glass

642
00:33:26,080 --> 00:33:29,050
with the back of a revolver.

643
00:33:29,050 --> 00:33:33,130
And the superintendent
said, let us in, Mrs. Reif.

644
00:33:33,130 --> 00:33:34,570
We won't hurt you.

645
00:33:34,570 --> 00:33:38,700
And they came in, and I
remember being in the kitchen.

646
00:33:38,700 --> 00:33:43,470
And the only really
strong memory I have

647
00:33:43,470 --> 00:33:48,600
is of them taking that
can full of coins.

648
00:33:48,600 --> 00:33:50,380
And now, they took--

649
00:33:50,380 --> 00:33:53,190
they helped themselves to

everything, all the radios we--

650
00:33:53,190 --> 00:33:57,780
anything that was of
any value they took,

651
00:33:57,780 --> 00:34:01,690
although before
that, interestingly,

652
00:34:01,690 --> 00:34:04,690
apparently either my
mother or some relative--

653
00:34:04,690 --> 00:34:07,570
my father, as a dentist,
had hunks of gold

654
00:34:07,570 --> 00:34:11,230
because in those days a lot of
fillings were made with gold.

655
00:34:11,230 --> 00:34:15,699
Somebody went and dumped those
in the bottom of the Danube.

656
00:34:15,699 --> 00:34:21,350
And I don't know.

657
00:34:21,350 --> 00:34:24,370
But anyway, whatever else
was valuable in the house

658
00:34:24,370 --> 00:34:26,230
these people helped
themselves to.

659
00:34:26,230 --> 00:34:31,090
And I do think I remember one
of the guys having some radio

660
00:34:31,090 --> 00:34:34,600
or something in his

hand, but the thing

661
00:34:34,600 --> 00:34:37,030
that I, as a little
girl, felt most resentful

662
00:34:37,030 --> 00:34:40,165
about was that they took
away this box of coins.

663
00:34:40,165 --> 00:34:42,880

664
00:34:42,880 --> 00:34:44,320
So anyway, so they left.

665
00:34:44,320 --> 00:34:49,610
And I don't remember
anything else about Vienna,

666
00:34:49,610 --> 00:34:51,820
I don't think.

667
00:34:51,820 --> 00:34:57,880
I think I may remember the
little suit that I wore when

668
00:34:57,880 --> 00:35:00,940
we got onto the
ship, the St. Louis,

669
00:35:00,940 --> 00:35:02,890
but I'm not sure
whether I remember that

670
00:35:02,890 --> 00:35:04,930
or I remember a
picture that we have.

671
00:35:04,930 --> 00:35:09,055
I don't-- and I actually
have that outfit still.

672

00:35:09,055 --> 00:35:14,270

673

00:35:14,270 --> 00:35:15,140

Oh, I know.

674

00:35:15,140 --> 00:35:17,000

I remember one other thing.

675

00:35:17,000 --> 00:35:20,608

OK, so then after

Kristallnacht, somehow--

676

00:35:20,608 --> 00:35:22,400

I don't know how it

happened, but my mother

677

00:35:22,400 --> 00:35:27,500

managed to get these tickets

to get on the St. Louis.

678

00:35:27,500 --> 00:35:30,800

And the reason we got

first-class passage was

679

00:35:30,800 --> 00:35:32,690

because you were only

allowed to take--

680

00:35:32,690 --> 00:35:35,970

I think it was like \$4 a

person out of the country.

681

00:35:35,970 --> 00:35:38,120

And so my mother figured,

what the hell, we

682

00:35:38,120 --> 00:35:41,600

might as well go first class.

683

00:35:41,600 --> 00:35:49,190

And so we had to pack

up stuff, and you were

684

00:35:49,190 --> 00:35:50,735
allowed to send things away.

685

00:35:50,735 --> 00:35:53,760

686

00:35:53,760 --> 00:35:54,490
Abroad?

687

00:35:54,490 --> 00:35:57,360
Yes, but there were
regulations, and I

688

00:35:57,360 --> 00:35:59,100
have a feeling that
some things got

689

00:35:59,100 --> 00:36:02,720
smuggled in because,
for example,

690

00:36:02,720 --> 00:36:09,220
a bunch of sterling silver
flatware was in that van.

691

00:36:09,220 --> 00:36:13,680
And I think that was
strictly forbidden if I

692

00:36:13,680 --> 00:36:16,120
have read my history correctly.

693

00:36:16,120 --> 00:36:21,570
But anyway, my
mother was not very--

694

00:36:21,570 --> 00:36:22,525
well, I don't know.

695

00:36:22,525 --> 00:36:23,400

I shouldn't say that.

696

00:36:23,400 --> 00:36:25,030

My mother was really devastated.

697

00:36:25,030 --> 00:36:26,520

I was going to say she
wasn't very functional,

698

00:36:26,520 --> 00:36:28,110

but she obviously
managed all right.

699

00:36:28,110 --> 00:36:30,630

But I think other
people came and kind of

700

00:36:30,630 --> 00:36:32,230

had to help her do things.

701

00:36:32,230 --> 00:36:34,530

And there was a--

702

00:36:34,530 --> 00:36:37,700

703

00:36:37,700 --> 00:36:42,290

my brother had met another boy
called Erwin Kleinfeld, who's

704

00:36:42,290 --> 00:36:44,930

now a mathematician at the
University of Iowa in Iowa

705

00:36:44,930 --> 00:36:49,520

City, and through
that friendship,

706

00:36:49,520 --> 00:36:53,840

our parents kind of got
to know his parents.

707

00:36:53,840 --> 00:36:59,000

And that guy-- the
father was a lawyer,

708

00:36:59,000 --> 00:37:02,517

and somehow he came and
helped my mother out

709

00:37:02,517 --> 00:37:03,350

with various things.

710

00:37:03,350 --> 00:37:07,010

And the day this
enormous van pulled up

711

00:37:07,010 --> 00:37:09,890

in front of our
building, he was there

712

00:37:09,890 --> 00:37:14,830

helping my mother get
stuff packed into this van.

713

00:37:14,830 --> 00:37:21,580

And I think my mother was
really not doing very well,

714

00:37:21,580 --> 00:37:23,880

and he kind of said,
take this, take that.

715

00:37:23,880 --> 00:37:25,310

And I don't know--

716

00:37:25,310 --> 00:37:27,060

I don't know who made
the final decisions.

717

00:37:27,060 --> 00:37:29,220

I have a feeling that
he made a lot of them.

718

00:37:29,220 --> 00:37:34,520

And there were some really
weird things in this van,

719
00:37:34,520 --> 00:37:35,610
just really weird.

720
00:37:35,610 --> 00:37:38,120
For example, we had
one room in Vienna

721
00:37:38,120 --> 00:37:43,460
that was totally covered,
apparently, in mirrors,

722
00:37:43,460 --> 00:37:45,230
and it was made out
of these tiles that

723
00:37:45,230 --> 00:37:49,430
were about 8 inches wide by
maybe about 14 inches high.

724
00:37:49,430 --> 00:37:52,370
And one of the things
that came out of this van

725
00:37:52,370 --> 00:37:55,220
when we got it in New
York three years later

726
00:37:55,220 --> 00:37:56,570
was all these mirrors.

727
00:37:56,570 --> 00:37:58,100
Now, what did
anybody think we were

728
00:37:58,100 --> 00:37:59,705
going to do with these mirrors?

729
00:37:59,705 --> 00:38:02,630
But anyway, so
that was in there.

730
00:38:02,630 --> 00:38:05,090
And then weird things--

731
00:38:05,090 --> 00:38:08,360
on my second
birthday, I had been

732
00:38:08,360 --> 00:38:15,170
bought a very special doll, and
that doll arrived in New York.

733
00:38:15,170 --> 00:38:17,360
And speaking of
traumatizing kids,

734
00:38:17,360 --> 00:38:24,320
it was hung by the neck from the
bar inside one of the wardrobes

735
00:38:24,320 --> 00:38:26,490
with all the clothes and so on.

736
00:38:26,490 --> 00:38:27,590
So anyway, so this guy--

737
00:38:27,590 --> 00:38:28,910
I remember that day.

738
00:38:28,910 --> 00:38:30,560
I remember this guy coming.

739
00:38:30,560 --> 00:38:33,590
And I remember these things
going out into this van,

740
00:38:33,590 --> 00:38:36,470
and that van went to New York.

741
00:38:36,470 --> 00:38:38,990
And it sat in a
warehouse, which I think

742
00:38:38,990 --> 00:38:43,250
was paid for by my aunt, Lena.

743
00:38:43,250 --> 00:38:44,630
Or maybe we sent--

744
00:38:44,630 --> 00:38:45,765
I don't know.

745
00:38:45,765 --> 00:38:46,890
I don't know what happened.

746
00:38:46,890 --> 00:38:52,280
But anyway, so then I don't
remember anything else

747
00:38:52,280 --> 00:38:57,440
until we went on the St. Louis.

748
00:38:57,440 --> 00:39:04,700
I don't remember that trip
except for being seasick,

749
00:39:04,700 --> 00:39:09,300
and then we were
sent back to Europe.

750
00:39:09,300 --> 00:39:11,220
And we went to
France, and that's

751
00:39:11,220 --> 00:39:14,070
where my memories start again.

752
00:39:14,070 --> 00:39:17,198
So the first thing that
happened was-- am I on track?

753
00:39:17,198 --> 00:39:18,990
Is this the kind of
stuff you want to hear?

754

00:39:18,990 --> 00:39:24,280
Maybe we can-- since I already
have a lot of the facts,

755

00:39:24,280 --> 00:39:27,120
maybe-- do you know any of your
mother's responses to these

756

00:39:27,120 --> 00:39:28,860
things or her
feelings about how--

757

00:39:28,860 --> 00:39:32,175
how did she respond being in
France when you were in Limoges

758

00:39:32,175 --> 00:39:33,090
and all of--

759

00:39:33,090 --> 00:39:39,560
OK, well, the thing that I
remember is that my mother--

760

00:39:39,560 --> 00:39:42,890
my remembrance of my
mother was that she

761

00:39:42,890 --> 00:39:48,570
was, to a large extent,
for years and years in--

762

00:39:48,570 --> 00:39:55,210

763

00:39:55,210 --> 00:39:58,720
I don't know what to call
it-- a state of somebody who's

764

00:39:58,720 --> 00:40:02,470
just been through a
catastrophe, which she had been.

765

00:40:02,470 --> 00:40:05,550

766

00:40:05,550 --> 00:40:10,260

It's just that most people
seem to recover more rapidly,

767

00:40:10,260 --> 00:40:13,680

and she just did not recover.

768

00:40:13,680 --> 00:40:16,200

She recovered effectively
in that she always

769

00:40:16,200 --> 00:40:20,340

seemed to do the right thing
to get to the next step,

770

00:40:20,340 --> 00:40:25,350

but emotionally,
she never recovered.

771

00:40:25,350 --> 00:40:28,410

And so my recollection
of my mother

772

00:40:28,410 --> 00:40:31,110

through most of those
years is that she was often

773

00:40:31,110 --> 00:40:35,820

a very sad person.

774

00:40:35,820 --> 00:40:43,110

It was like a lot of sighing
and just this unhappy

775

00:40:43,110 --> 00:40:46,710

demeanor on her face for years.

776

00:40:46,710 --> 00:40:50,490

Now, in later

years, some of that

777

00:40:50,490 --> 00:40:56,550

lifted, and she could be a
real fun person sometimes.

778

00:40:56,550 --> 00:40:59,820

779

00:40:59,820 --> 00:41:00,540

I don't know.

780

00:41:00,540 --> 00:41:07,780

It was almost-- it
was almost weird,

781

00:41:07,780 --> 00:41:10,540

and I couldn't even
begin to go through this

782

00:41:10,540 --> 00:41:11,650

until very recently.

783

00:41:11,650 --> 00:41:15,820

But now I have a feeling
that if somebody had somehow

784

00:41:15,820 --> 00:41:19,360

just let her or
encouraged her, she

785

00:41:19,360 --> 00:41:27,280

could have been just a really
vibrant, dazzling lady.

786

00:41:27,280 --> 00:41:30,950

Occasionally, she would dance
with me, not very often,

787

00:41:30,950 --> 00:41:33,940

but occasionally.

788

00:41:33,940 --> 00:41:37,330
She was very good
in later years,

789
00:41:37,330 --> 00:41:41,230
like after I met Sam and we
got married and everything.

790
00:41:41,230 --> 00:41:42,970
She was always
game for anything.

791
00:41:42,970 --> 00:41:44,260
Fly on a jet?

792
00:41:44,260 --> 00:41:45,797
Yeah, fly on a jet.

793
00:41:45,797 --> 00:41:47,380
She didn't have any
of these hang-ups.

794
00:41:47,380 --> 00:41:50,740
Like other parents of
my contemporaries--

795
00:41:50,740 --> 00:41:54,430
they wouldn't ride an escalator.

796
00:41:54,430 --> 00:41:59,560
Even when she was 60, she
climbed with us in Yosemite.

797
00:41:59,560 --> 00:42:06,730
But there was always
this real sadness.

798
00:42:06,730 --> 00:42:09,400
And I remember once,
when she was already

799
00:42:09,400 --> 00:42:11,600
starting to get

Alzheimer's disease,

800

00:42:11,600 --> 00:42:14,120

she-- well, she said
this to me very often,

801

00:42:14,120 --> 00:42:17,470

but this particular time I
remember it very dramatically.

802

00:42:17,470 --> 00:42:21,400

She said, you know, I've
only had 13 good years

803

00:42:21,400 --> 00:42:25,150

in my whole life, and
those were the first 13

804

00:42:25,150 --> 00:42:27,580

years with my father is
what she was referring to.

805

00:42:27,580 --> 00:42:34,030

806

00:42:34,030 --> 00:42:37,000

And we were not very
nice children to her.

807

00:42:37,000 --> 00:42:40,780

808

00:42:40,780 --> 00:42:45,380

We were extremely hard
on her for many reasons.

809

00:42:45,380 --> 00:42:48,070

First of all, my brother
thought she was frivolous.

810

00:42:48,070 --> 00:42:50,710

811

00:42:50,710 --> 00:42:55,630

I probably thought she was
a little frivolous, also,

812

00:42:55,630 --> 00:42:57,820

although she was
very sad and serious.

813

00:42:57,820 --> 00:43:05,310

But she always seemed to be
concerned about things that--

814

00:43:05,310 --> 00:43:09,128

I don't know how we got
to be so lofty-thinking,

815

00:43:09,128 --> 00:43:10,670

but she always seemed
to be concerned

816

00:43:10,670 --> 00:43:16,070

with things that we felt
were not terribly important.

817

00:43:16,070 --> 00:43:26,600

And so one would say
there was friction,

818

00:43:26,600 --> 00:43:29,990

but it wasn't really friction
because we just totally

819

00:43:29,990 --> 00:43:32,730

lorded over her.

820

00:43:32,730 --> 00:43:37,110

As I think back on it now, it
was a very strange situation.

821

00:43:37,110 --> 00:43:38,420

Do you want to switch it?

822

00:43:38,420 --> 00:43:39,253
Let me flip it over.

823
00:43:39,253 --> 00:43:39,886
It's getting--

824
00:43:39,886 --> 00:43:47,290

825
00:43:47,290 --> 00:43:50,950
I'm not technical
enough to [INAUDIBLE]..

826
00:43:50,950 --> 00:43:51,490
I'm sorry.

827
00:43:51,490 --> 00:43:51,660
Would you like to continue?

828
00:43:51,660 --> 00:43:52,452
So is it going now?

829
00:43:52,452 --> 00:43:53,270
Yeah, now we're on.

830
00:43:53,270 --> 00:44:02,520

831
00:44:02,520 --> 00:44:10,680
She was very, very encouraging
of our studying and doing well

832
00:44:10,680 --> 00:44:15,180
for ourselves, but she didn't
demand enough for herself.

833
00:44:15,180 --> 00:44:17,790
I can say this in retrospect.

834
00:44:17,790 --> 00:44:21,870
For example, my brother had a
room to himself in New York--

835
00:44:21,870 --> 00:44:25,090
I'm skipping ahead now--

836
00:44:25,090 --> 00:44:25,990
and I didn't.

837
00:44:25,990 --> 00:44:27,950
I shared a bedroom with her.

838
00:44:27,950 --> 00:44:31,090
And so I did my
homework in the kitchen.

839
00:44:31,090 --> 00:44:32,650
She'd come home tired from work.

840
00:44:32,650 --> 00:44:33,580
She would make dinner.

841
00:44:33,580 --> 00:44:35,140
She would clean up.

842
00:44:35,140 --> 00:44:38,920
And then I had the
audacity to tell her

843
00:44:38,920 --> 00:44:41,440
that she couldn't run the water
to wash the dishes while I

844
00:44:41,440 --> 00:44:44,440
was doing my homework, and
she went along with that.

845
00:44:44,440 --> 00:44:47,802
That was really-- in retrospect,
that was not short of amazing.

846
00:44:47,802 --> 00:44:49,510
She should have told
me where to get off.

847
00:44:49,510 --> 00:44:52,080

848
00:44:52,080 --> 00:44:58,430
And she did get after
me to help often,

849
00:44:58,430 --> 00:45:00,710
and I sometimes tried
to help a little.

850
00:45:00,710 --> 00:45:03,920

851
00:45:03,920 --> 00:45:04,610
It's funny.

852
00:45:04,610 --> 00:45:06,050
Now you-- do you have children?

853
00:45:06,050 --> 00:45:06,950
No, not yet.

854
00:45:06,950 --> 00:45:12,110
Well, you see this thing
reflected in your children.

855
00:45:12,110 --> 00:45:15,780
She would say, would
you dry the dishes,

856
00:45:15,780 --> 00:45:17,780
and I would say, yes,
I'll dry the dishes as

857
00:45:17,780 --> 00:45:19,760
soon as I finish my homework.

858
00:45:19,760 --> 00:45:24,020
And then she would say--

859

00:45:24,020 --> 00:45:25,690

well, she couldn't
wait until I finished

860

00:45:25,690 --> 00:45:29,650

because she was very methodical
about all the household things,

861

00:45:29,650 --> 00:45:31,030

so she would dry the dishes.

862

00:45:31,030 --> 00:45:33,190

So most of the time, I
never got to do it because--

863

00:45:33,190 --> 00:45:37,330

I would have done it if she had
waited, but she couldn't wait.

864

00:45:37,330 --> 00:45:43,930

And so now, as a parent, I
can sense that irritation

865

00:45:43,930 --> 00:45:46,610

of "I want it done now" and
the kid wants to do it later.

866

00:45:46,610 --> 00:45:48,730

It's just that I
know enough to know

867

00:45:48,730 --> 00:45:50,230

that if I really
don't want to do it

868

00:45:50,230 --> 00:45:52,390

and I want the kids to
do it, you just leave it

869

00:45:52,390 --> 00:45:55,960

and let the kid do it later.

870

00:45:55,960 --> 00:45:59,110
Did she have any interests--

871
00:45:59,110 --> 00:46:01,400
you said she enjoyed dancing
and things like that.

872
00:46:01,400 --> 00:46:01,983
Did she have--

873
00:46:01,983 --> 00:46:03,730
Well, she certainly--

874
00:46:03,730 --> 00:46:05,740
You mentioned that
they went to the opera.

875
00:46:05,740 --> 00:46:08,210
Did she follow anything closely
or have hobbies or anything

876
00:46:08,210 --> 00:46:08,710
like that?

877
00:46:08,710 --> 00:46:10,030
No, I don't think so.

878
00:46:10,030 --> 00:46:15,160
Actually, she was she was
fantastic with her hands,

879
00:46:15,160 --> 00:46:17,560
and in Europe, when she
was a lady of leisure,

880
00:46:17,560 --> 00:46:19,120
she did embroidery.

881
00:46:19,120 --> 00:46:20,380
That's what ladies did.

882
00:46:20,380 --> 00:46:21,700

She did that whole thing.

883
00:46:21,700 --> 00:46:26,230
That's all silk petit point,
and it took her two years

884
00:46:26,230 --> 00:46:27,700
to do that.

885
00:46:27,700 --> 00:46:30,730
And we were such terrible kids.

886
00:46:30,730 --> 00:46:34,780
We both used to
tease her about, why

887
00:46:34,780 --> 00:46:37,210
did you spend all this
time doing this really

888
00:46:37,210 --> 00:46:38,485
disgusting-looking scene?

889
00:46:38,485 --> 00:46:41,050

890
00:46:41,050 --> 00:46:43,360
Why didn't you at
least pick some--

891
00:46:43,360 --> 00:46:47,330
Well, first of all,
now, it still looks--

892
00:46:47,330 --> 00:46:51,640
I still think, why did she spend
all this time doing this scene,

893
00:46:51,640 --> 00:46:55,382
but it doesn't look as
bad as it used to look.

894

00:46:55,382 --> 00:46:58,287

And now I really
appreciate the time--

895

00:46:58,287 --> 00:46:58,787

[?

896

00:46:58,787 --> 00:46:59,954

To look at the work and-- ?]

897

00:46:59,954 --> 00:47:04,060

--and the energy, and the
devotion, and the workmanship.

898

00:47:04,060 --> 00:47:09,130

And there are lots of things
around the house that she did.

899

00:47:09,130 --> 00:47:12,940

And later on, it
became things that we

900

00:47:12,940 --> 00:47:16,030

tried to get her to
do to keep her busy.

901

00:47:16,030 --> 00:47:19,945

902

00:47:19,945 --> 00:47:21,570

So needle point.
[? OK, that's good. ?]

903

00:47:21,570 --> 00:47:23,010

But she didn't know--

904

00:47:23,010 --> 00:47:24,400

she did not--

905

00:47:24,400 --> 00:47:26,700

I don't know how she
did this in Vienna.

906

00:47:26,700 --> 00:47:28,710

I think in Vienna
she probably picked

907

00:47:28,710 --> 00:47:34,170

this up whenever she had time
and then put it down and so on.

908

00:47:34,170 --> 00:47:41,280

In the time that I really knew
her, she didn't know how to--

909

00:47:41,280 --> 00:47:44,200

she didn't know how to
relax, except to read.

910

00:47:44,200 --> 00:47:46,260

She did a lot of reading.

911

00:47:46,260 --> 00:47:48,180

I'm not always sure that--

912

00:47:48,180 --> 00:47:52,050

913

00:47:52,050 --> 00:47:54,680

she read in a funny way.

914

00:47:54,680 --> 00:47:58,310

She did not read like
an educated person.

915

00:47:58,310 --> 00:48:04,640

She read in a way that
was non-analytical,

916

00:48:04,640 --> 00:48:09,140

and so we, the children,
who both turned out

917

00:48:09,140 --> 00:48:13,310

to be PhD scientists,

found this really weird.

918
00:48:13,310 --> 00:48:15,020
But how do you mean
non-analytical?

919
00:48:15,020 --> 00:48:17,560
Reading fiction in a
non-analytical way?

920
00:48:17,560 --> 00:48:18,817
Well, the best way--

921
00:48:18,817 --> 00:48:20,150
You have to defend the humanity?

922
00:48:20,150 --> 00:48:20,690
Yeah.

923
00:48:20,690 --> 00:48:23,780
Well, and this is
probably-- this

924
00:48:23,780 --> 00:48:25,280
may even be an
unfair thing to say,

925
00:48:25,280 --> 00:48:27,140
but one of the things
that I remember-- an this

926
00:48:27,140 --> 00:48:29,432
had nothing to do with reading
but rather with a movie.

927
00:48:29,432 --> 00:48:32,220
She was up here
babysitting for us,

928
00:48:32,220 --> 00:48:37,510
and she had seen a movie called
I Never Sang For My Father.

929

00:48:37,510 --> 00:48:40,660

And my husband and I were
going out to see it that night.

930

00:48:40,660 --> 00:48:45,540

And when we came home,
almost simultaneously,

931

00:48:45,540 --> 00:48:49,020

my husband and I said, boy,
what a miserable father,

932

00:48:49,020 --> 00:48:54,560

and at the same moment she said,
wasn't that a miserable son?

933

00:48:54,560 --> 00:48:59,340

And I'm sure it could be
interpreted both ways,

934

00:48:59,340 --> 00:49:02,880

but I think any--

935

00:49:02,880 --> 00:49:06,060

if you looked at the critics,
which I don't think I ever did,

936

00:49:06,060 --> 00:49:09,780

of that movie, I think the
whole point of the movie

937

00:49:09,780 --> 00:49:12,780

is that here's a parent
who is manipulating

938

00:49:12,780 --> 00:49:16,740

the son in such a way that
the son's life becomes ruined.

939

00:49:16,740 --> 00:49:18,150

My mother totally missed that.

940

00:49:18,150 --> 00:49:20,100
All she could see
was the bad son

941
00:49:20,100 --> 00:49:22,860
not being nice to the daddy.

942
00:49:22,860 --> 00:49:23,744
I see.

943
00:49:23,744 --> 00:49:27,000

944
00:49:27,000 --> 00:49:30,720
Well, for example, after
our kids were born,

945
00:49:30,720 --> 00:49:35,820
I would keep giving her books
to read about child rearing,

946
00:49:35,820 --> 00:49:39,250
and every time she
finished one, she'd say,

947
00:49:39,250 --> 00:49:41,387
oh, this is really interesting.

948
00:49:41,387 --> 00:49:41,970
This is great.

949
00:49:41,970 --> 00:49:47,010
I wish I had known about
this when you were small.

950
00:49:47,010 --> 00:49:52,470
But then 10 minutes later,
she would go and totally

951
00:49:52,470 --> 00:49:56,340
interact by her gut
reaction rather than by what

952
00:49:56,340 --> 00:49:57,480
she had just read about.

953
00:49:57,480 --> 00:50:00,564

954
00:50:00,564 --> 00:50:01,870
And so we would--

955
00:50:01,870 --> 00:50:05,330
we would get into some
really ridiculous arguments,

956
00:50:05,330 --> 00:50:16,440
she and I. So later on, after
I got my PhD and got a job--

957
00:50:16,440 --> 00:50:19,890
because she worked like a
mad dog in the factories,

958
00:50:19,890 --> 00:50:23,710
and she had incredible
pride in her work.

959
00:50:23,710 --> 00:50:25,530
So she not only did
what she had to do,

960
00:50:25,530 --> 00:50:28,590
but she worked harder
because she wanted everything

961
00:50:28,590 --> 00:50:30,750
to be just right.

962
00:50:30,750 --> 00:50:34,830
And so we pretty much had
to insist that she retire,

963
00:50:34,830 --> 00:50:37,620
and my brother and I

each gave her money.

964

00:50:37,620 --> 00:50:41,340

Well, she never could feel comfortable with getting money

965

00:50:41,340 --> 00:50:42,570

from us.

966

00:50:42,570 --> 00:50:47,160

And we would say, look, you struggled like mad

967

00:50:47,160 --> 00:50:49,590

to support us.

968

00:50:49,590 --> 00:50:51,180

Did we ever complain about that?

969

00:50:51,180 --> 00:50:55,590

No, we just took the money, and we lived happily ever after.

970

00:50:55,590 --> 00:51:00,030

And so now it's your turn to have a good time and retire.

971

00:51:00,030 --> 00:51:05,490

We are doing quite well we are in no way being

972

00:51:05,490 --> 00:51:07,320

hurt by giving you this money.

973

00:51:07,320 --> 00:51:10,680

Why don't you just take the money and enjoy it?

974

00:51:10,680 --> 00:51:12,060

You've had a really hard life.

975

00:51:12,060 --> 00:51:14,320

Now's the time to
have a good time.

976
00:51:14,320 --> 00:51:15,870
She could never cope with that.

977
00:51:15,870 --> 00:51:18,690
Every month when
the checks came,

978
00:51:18,690 --> 00:51:21,570
there was a struggle
about whether she

979
00:51:21,570 --> 00:51:24,780
was going to keep these checks.

980
00:51:24,780 --> 00:51:31,320
But then also when she did
retire, she was lonesome.

981
00:51:31,320 --> 00:51:34,170
What was she going
to do with her time?

982
00:51:34,170 --> 00:51:39,090
So Sam and I used to devise
these projects for her to do.

983
00:51:39,090 --> 00:51:43,470
So one time, she said she
really needed a bookcase,

984
00:51:43,470 --> 00:51:47,070
so we bought her an unfinished
bookcase, and some varnish,

985
00:51:47,070 --> 00:51:49,090
and shellac, and the rest of it.

986
00:51:49,090 --> 00:51:51,330
And we said, well,
this ought to keep

987
00:51:51,330 --> 00:51:54,270
her busy for a week or
two, and so we told her

988
00:51:54,270 --> 00:51:56,460
how to do this and so on.

989
00:51:56,460 --> 00:51:58,770
Two days later or three
days later, she calls up,

990
00:51:58,770 --> 00:51:59,865
I finished the bookcase.

991
00:51:59,865 --> 00:52:01,990
I said, what do you mean
you finished the bookcase?

992
00:52:01,990 --> 00:52:04,640
You have to wait at least
so many hours in between.

993
00:52:04,640 --> 00:52:05,250
To dry, yeah.

994
00:52:05,250 --> 00:52:06,360
She said, oh, I did.

995
00:52:06,360 --> 00:52:08,340
She said, it said
wait five hours,

996
00:52:08,340 --> 00:52:10,590
so I set the alarm clock
when I went to sleep.

997
00:52:10,590 --> 00:52:12,870
And I at five hours,
I got up, and I

998
00:52:12,870 --> 00:52:15,460

put on the next coat and so on.

999

00:52:15,460 --> 00:52:20,700

So everything was like
something she had to do.

1000

00:52:20,700 --> 00:52:23,370

All right, I'll give her
something better to do.

1001

00:52:23,370 --> 00:52:28,980

So I gave her this
enormous piece of rug mesh

1002

00:52:28,980 --> 00:52:32,290

to hook a rug, which is
now hanging on our wall.

1003

00:52:32,290 --> 00:52:35,520

I thought, well, this has got
to keep her busy for a while.

1004

00:52:35,520 --> 00:52:37,110

After a few weeks,
she came back.

1005

00:52:37,110 --> 00:52:39,240

It was all finished,
and she said,

1006

00:52:39,240 --> 00:52:40,380

this was really very hard.

1007

00:52:40,380 --> 00:52:45,660

My hands were bleeding along
the sides from working on this.

1008

00:52:45,660 --> 00:52:51,720

So everything we tried to do to
occupy her time in a nice way--

1009

00:52:51,720 --> 00:52:55,170

but on the other hand,

she also did very well.

1010
00:52:55,170 --> 00:53:01,500
Like she must have gone to
every free concert in New York,

1011
00:53:01,500 --> 00:53:03,780
and free plays, and so on.

1012
00:53:03,780 --> 00:53:06,690
She would start talking
to younger people.

1013
00:53:06,690 --> 00:53:10,545
Other people found
her very delightful

1014
00:53:10,545 --> 00:53:12,420
because they didn't have
to grow up with her,

1015
00:53:12,420 --> 00:53:17,370
and so none of those
irritations were there.

1016
00:53:17,370 --> 00:53:19,630
But it was very hard
for her to make friends.

1017
00:53:19,630 --> 00:53:22,780

1018
00:53:22,780 --> 00:53:25,030
The only people that
she made friends with

1019
00:53:25,030 --> 00:53:27,970
were other ladies
like her from Vienna,

1020
00:53:27,970 --> 00:53:32,650
and it was hard to find
those as the years went on.

1021
00:53:32,650 --> 00:53:36,490
And even with those people,
she was very critical,

1022
00:53:36,490 --> 00:53:39,610
and so if they did
something wrong

1023
00:53:39,610 --> 00:53:42,490
she would get very
annoyed or insulted.

1024
00:53:42,490 --> 00:53:45,027

1025
00:53:45,027 --> 00:53:46,360
You were going to ask something?

1026
00:53:46,360 --> 00:53:48,850
Did she speak German with
you and your brother,

1027
00:53:48,850 --> 00:53:51,940
or with these other people did
she prefer to speak German?

1028
00:53:51,940 --> 00:53:53,980
She did speak German
with them, yeah,

1029
00:53:53,980 --> 00:53:58,570
and she did speak German
with us for a long time.

1030
00:53:58,570 --> 00:54:02,210
I think in the later years,
after our kids were born,

1031
00:54:02,210 --> 00:54:05,230
she probably spoke more English.

1032

00:54:05,230 --> 00:54:07,000
And she was very--

1033
00:54:07,000 --> 00:54:09,550
when we first came here,
she had all these books,

1034
00:54:09,550 --> 00:54:12,430
and every night she'd come home
from work, she'd be exhausted.

1035
00:54:12,430 --> 00:54:13,450
She would make dinner.

1036
00:54:13,450 --> 00:54:14,440
She would clean up.

1037
00:54:14,440 --> 00:54:15,400
She would get into bed.

1038
00:54:15,400 --> 00:54:18,670
She would study her English.

1039
00:54:18,670 --> 00:54:24,480
And she was very thorough.

1040
00:54:24,480 --> 00:54:27,930

1041
00:54:27,930 --> 00:54:31,410
She had these little
notebooks about this size

1042
00:54:31,410 --> 00:54:34,410
that she would keep,
and every night she

1043
00:54:34,410 --> 00:54:36,510
would write down
everything she spent

1044
00:54:36,510 --> 00:54:38,280

that day in that notebook.

1045

00:54:38,280 --> 00:54:40,020

And she would add
it up, and then she

1046

00:54:40,020 --> 00:54:42,900

would count what was in her
change purse and her wallet.

1047

00:54:42,900 --> 00:54:47,520

And if it was off by even \$0.01,
even if it was late at night,

1048

00:54:47,520 --> 00:54:49,740

she would go through the
whole thing as many times

1049

00:54:49,740 --> 00:54:51,900

as it took to balance that--

1050

00:54:51,900 --> 00:54:56,310

it could not be
off by one penny.

1051

00:54:56,310 --> 00:54:57,810

And then funny things happened.

1052

00:54:57,810 --> 00:54:59,548

Like one time I
remember we were--

1053

00:54:59,548 --> 00:55:00,090

I don't know.

1054

00:55:00,090 --> 00:55:02,760

You know how you get into
silly discussions about--

1055

00:55:02,760 --> 00:55:05,770

she had bought me this dress,
and I said it cost so much.

1056

00:55:05,770 --> 00:55:07,380

And she said, no,
it was so much.

1057

00:55:07,380 --> 00:55:10,710

And she just went and got her
little thing of little books

1058

00:55:10,710 --> 00:55:12,810

and looked it up, and
there it was with the date

1059

00:55:12,810 --> 00:55:17,100

and how much it was, gray
dress with white stripes.

1060

00:55:17,100 --> 00:55:18,750

So she was really--

1061

00:55:18,750 --> 00:55:23,820

she was almost compulsive
about keeping the records,

1062

00:55:23,820 --> 00:55:26,490

and every Saturday
was cleaning day.

1063

00:55:26,490 --> 00:55:28,560

And come heaven,
hell, or high water,

1064

00:55:28,560 --> 00:55:33,930

the house got cleaned on
Saturday from top to bottom,

1065

00:55:33,930 --> 00:55:35,430

and I got involved in that.

1066

00:55:35,430 --> 00:55:38,080

And sometimes I probably
felt resentful about that.

1067

00:55:38,080 --> 00:55:40,770
It was a gorgeous Saturday,
and from 9:00 in the morning

1068
00:55:40,770 --> 00:55:43,650
until 3:00 in the
afternoon we cleaned house,

1069
00:55:43,650 --> 00:55:45,360
washed the floors, everything.

1070
00:55:45,360 --> 00:55:50,990

1071
00:55:50,990 --> 00:55:55,400
So I want to go back
to France because--

1072
00:55:55,400 --> 00:56:00,060
in France, my mother
was not doing very well,

1073
00:56:00,060 --> 00:56:02,630
and with all the
languages, she could

1074
00:56:02,630 --> 00:56:05,420
speak she never learned to speak
French because she was just

1075
00:56:05,420 --> 00:56:08,750
so emotionally devastated.

1076
00:56:08,750 --> 00:56:13,700
And in France, when we
first got to Loudun,

1077
00:56:13,700 --> 00:56:16,460
we lived in this hotel.

1078
00:56:16,460 --> 00:56:19,670
There were a whole bunch
of about 20 refugees

1079
00:56:19,670 --> 00:56:22,610
who were put up at this hotel.

1080
00:56:22,610 --> 00:56:33,810
And she was really--

1081
00:56:33,810 --> 00:56:35,970
in addition to
things being bad, she

1082
00:56:35,970 --> 00:56:38,700
was upset about all
sorts of minor things.

1083
00:56:38,700 --> 00:56:42,330
Like in the kitchen of the
hotel, there were cats,

1084
00:56:42,330 --> 00:56:44,520
and the cats were allowed
to walk on the food table.

1085
00:56:44,520 --> 00:56:48,090
Well, yeah, I'd get
bothered about that also,

1086
00:56:48,090 --> 00:56:51,480
but under those circumstances--

1087
00:56:51,480 --> 00:56:53,715
She went to ask the woman
who ran the hotel where

1088
00:56:53,715 --> 00:56:54,840
is there a public bathroom.

1089
00:56:54,840 --> 00:56:55,960
There was no bathroom.

1090
00:56:55,960 --> 00:56:58,780
There were toilets but no

bathroom in this hotel.

1091

00:56:58,780 --> 00:57:00,600

The woman didn't know.

1092

00:57:00,600 --> 00:57:02,490

This blew my mother's mind.

1093

00:57:02,490 --> 00:57:03,720

How could she not know?

1094

00:57:03,720 --> 00:57:06,480

And this woman, like a
lot of other French women,

1095

00:57:06,480 --> 00:57:09,970

would put on a lot of perfume,
and my mother was always, God,

1096

00:57:09,970 --> 00:57:11,820

she must be filthy.

1097

00:57:11,820 --> 00:57:14,160

I'm sure she
sponge-bathed and so on.

1098

00:57:14,160 --> 00:57:16,380

But anyway, so my
mother was really

1099

00:57:16,380 --> 00:57:18,770

bothered by things like that.

1100

00:57:18,770 --> 00:57:23,260

So I remember that
hotel very well.

1101

00:57:23,260 --> 00:57:25,170

And then after we
had been there--

1102

00:57:25,170 --> 00:57:28,230

I had a little boy friend
whose name was Jean-Paul Berg,

1103
00:57:28,230 --> 00:57:28,740
and I just--

1104
00:57:28,740 --> 00:57:30,105
He was in the picture
that you sent me.

1105
00:57:30,105 --> 00:57:30,360
Right.

1106
00:57:30,360 --> 00:57:31,650
And he apparently perished.

1107
00:57:31,650 --> 00:57:35,107

1108
00:57:35,107 --> 00:57:37,440
I don't know what that meant,
having a little boyfriend,

1109
00:57:37,440 --> 00:57:39,570
but I think he was
just my friend.

1110
00:57:39,570 --> 00:57:41,700
We played together.

1111
00:57:41,700 --> 00:57:48,360
And then the other thing I
remember from that time--

1112
00:57:48,360 --> 00:57:50,490
this was really weird stuff.

1113
00:57:50,490 --> 00:57:53,130
I remember there were
these two girls who

1114
00:57:53,130 --> 00:57:57,360

forced me to go to the-- who
forced me to watch the hotel

1115
00:57:57,360 --> 00:58:00,630
cooks kill a chicken in
the back of the hotel,

1116
00:58:00,630 --> 00:58:03,040
and I just cried and cried.

1117
00:58:03,040 --> 00:58:04,740
And I was really upset.

1118
00:58:04,740 --> 00:58:13,510
And just around the time of
the St. Louis reunion in 1989,

1119
00:58:13,510 --> 00:58:20,210
I coincidentally met these two
women who were the two girls.

1120
00:58:20,210 --> 00:58:22,460
And they said, well, there
weren't any other children,

1121
00:58:22,460 --> 00:58:24,490
so it must have been
us, and yeah, it

1122
00:58:24,490 --> 00:58:26,770
sounds like the kind of
thing we would have done.

1123
00:58:26,770 --> 00:58:28,732
And they're actually--
those people,

1124
00:58:28,732 --> 00:58:30,190
if you could get
to interview them,

1125
00:58:30,190 --> 00:58:33,880
would be very interesting

because those two sisters have

1126
00:58:33,880 --> 00:58:41,150
diametrically opposite stories
about what happened in France.

1127
00:58:41,150 --> 00:58:44,680

1128
00:58:44,680 --> 00:58:47,170
Not the facts but the
attitudes are just

1129
00:58:47,170 --> 00:58:48,533
diametrically opposite.

1130
00:58:48,533 --> 00:58:49,700
Do you remember their names?

1131
00:58:49,700 --> 00:58:51,040
Yes.

1132
00:58:51,040 --> 00:58:54,580
Well, first of all, their
unmarried last name was Isner,

1133
00:58:54,580 --> 00:59:01,030
I-S-N-E-R, and the younger
one is Ruth Isner Kissinger.

1134
00:59:01,030 --> 00:59:03,130
And her husband is
actually a first cousin

1135
00:59:03,130 --> 00:59:04,840
of Henry Kissinger.

1136
00:59:04,840 --> 00:59:11,173
And the other one is
Bella, and she remarried--

1137
00:59:11,173 --> 00:59:13,090

I don't remember what happened to her husband.

1138
00:59:13,090 --> 00:59:14,007
I think maybe he died.

1139
00:59:14,007 --> 00:59:17,410
And she remarried, so she's now Bella Isner Uhlfelder,

1140
00:59:17,410 --> 00:59:24,420
U-H-L-F-E-L-D-E-R.

1141
00:59:24,420 --> 00:59:28,170
Ruth Isner is--

1142
00:59:28,170 --> 00:59:31,380
I found her very easy to talk to.

1143
00:59:31,380 --> 00:59:35,880
Well, actually, Bella was originally easier to talk to.

1144
00:59:35,880 --> 00:59:37,890
Ruth is a more reticent person, but Ruth

1145
00:59:37,890 --> 00:59:40,800
has been much more cooperative with me about collecting stuff

1146
00:59:40,800 --> 00:59:41,680
for my book.

1147
00:59:41,680 --> 00:59:46,950
And Bella got mad at me for some really dodo thing

1148
00:59:46,950 --> 00:59:49,410
at the reunion because I got up and announced

1149

00:59:49,410 --> 00:59:52,320

that I was doing this
book, and she accused me

1150

00:59:52,320 --> 01:00:01,770

of making this very emotional
thing into a commercial affair.

1151

01:00:01,770 --> 01:00:03,210

So I don't know.

1152

01:00:03,210 --> 01:00:05,880

But anyway, so I have not
gotten a story from Bella,

1153

01:00:05,880 --> 01:00:07,470

but I have one from Ruth Isner.

1154

01:00:07,470 --> 01:00:10,260

And I think it would be very
interesting to interview

1155

01:00:10,260 --> 01:00:11,228

both of those sisters.

1156

01:00:11,228 --> 01:00:12,270

Do they live in New York?

1157

01:00:12,270 --> 01:00:15,240

Yeah, they both live in--
no, she lives in New Jersey.

1158

01:00:15,240 --> 01:00:21,600

Bella lives in, I think, The
Bronx or uptown Manhattan,

1159

01:00:21,600 --> 01:00:23,805

but somewhere in the hundreds.

1160

01:00:23,805 --> 01:00:28,380

1161

01:00:28,380 --> 01:00:33,360

Anyway, so we spent
almost a year there,

1162

01:00:33,360 --> 01:00:35,880

just short of a year, and
then one morning the Germans

1163

01:00:35,880 --> 01:00:38,310

came in and took the town.

1164

01:00:38,310 --> 01:00:45,090

And I remember that
because we woke up,

1165

01:00:45,090 --> 01:00:47,520

and they were parading around,
and shooting into the air,

1166

01:00:47,520 --> 01:00:51,240

and just being
generally very noisy.

1167

01:00:51,240 --> 01:00:55,140

And the thing that
I remember was

1168

01:00:55,140 --> 01:00:58,440

I was a very
goody-goody little girl,

1169

01:00:58,440 --> 01:01:00,930

and I'd always been taught,
you don't lie, you don't this,

1170

01:01:00,930 --> 01:01:02,040

you don't that.

1171

01:01:02,040 --> 01:01:05,700

And I was told that
no way was I allowed

1172

01:01:05,700 --> 01:01:10,470
to let on that I could speak
German because the generals, I

1173
01:01:10,470 --> 01:01:13,530
guess, actually came
and lived in the hotel,

1174
01:01:13,530 --> 01:01:16,600
so for about two weeks
we were together.

1175
01:01:16,600 --> 01:01:20,250
And I remember being totally--

1176
01:01:20,250 --> 01:01:22,740
I thought this was really
weird that you're not

1177
01:01:22,740 --> 01:01:24,540
supposed to lie, but here I am.

1178
01:01:24,540 --> 01:01:26,743
And I can understand
everything all these guys say,

1179
01:01:26,743 --> 01:01:29,160
and every time they talk to
me, I'm standing there saying,

1180
01:01:29,160 --> 01:01:31,200
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

1181
01:01:31,200 --> 01:01:35,670
And my brother now tells me
that, one day, my brother just

1182
01:01:35,670 --> 01:01:38,520
had his heart in his mouth
because one of these guys

1183
01:01:38,520 --> 01:01:40,890
came up to me,

started to talk to me,

1184

01:01:40,890 --> 01:01:44,760
and my brother saw me
start to answer in German.

1185

01:01:44,760 --> 01:01:48,990
And he became petrified, and
he said, at the last minute,

1186

01:01:48,990 --> 01:01:50,640
I suddenly must have remembered.

1187

01:01:50,640 --> 01:01:56,130
And I said,
[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]..

1188

01:01:56,130 --> 01:02:00,270
But that was a very
important time in my life

1189

01:02:00,270 --> 01:02:05,220
because there was a young
German soldier there.

1190

01:02:05,220 --> 01:02:08,970
I don't really remember his face
except it was a very nice face,

1191

01:02:08,970 --> 01:02:12,570
and he had sandy-colored hair.

1192

01:02:12,570 --> 01:02:15,060
I don't know if I could
judge, but as I think back,

1193

01:02:15,060 --> 01:02:17,610
he must have been 18 or 19.

1194

01:02:17,610 --> 01:02:20,790
There was something very
pleasing about this kid.

1195

01:02:20,790 --> 01:02:27,310

And every morning they
did these stupid maneuvers

1196

01:02:27,310 --> 01:02:30,220

around this hotel, and we would
watch from our window, which

1197

01:02:30,220 --> 01:02:31,900

looked out over the side.

1198

01:02:31,900 --> 01:02:34,782

And this guy would throw
me candies and things,

1199

01:02:34,782 --> 01:02:37,240

and my mother was always sure
they were poisoned and didn't

1200

01:02:37,240 --> 01:02:38,073

want me to eat them.

1201

01:02:38,073 --> 01:02:44,000

But I didn't get stuff
like that, and so I ate it.

1202

01:02:44,000 --> 01:02:45,490

And here I am.

1203

01:02:45,490 --> 01:02:48,820

And then he ultimately gave
me a little doll, which

1204

01:02:48,820 --> 01:02:51,670

I treasured for a long time.

1205

01:02:51,670 --> 01:02:58,890

Now, I don't know whether this
is true or not, but in my mind,

1206

01:02:58,890 --> 01:03:07,400

that soldier was unbelievably

important because when

1207
01:03:07,400 --> 01:03:12,180
I came to the United
States, the kids--

1208
01:03:12,180 --> 01:03:13,930
well, first of all,
kids are brutal,

1209
01:03:13,930 --> 01:03:15,410
and the kids were really brutal.

1210
01:03:15,410 --> 01:03:17,410
And first of all, everybody
was making fun of me

1211
01:03:17,410 --> 01:03:20,410
because I couldn't
speak English,

1212
01:03:20,410 --> 01:03:23,770
and even some of the parents
in the neighborhood in Brooklyn

1213
01:03:23,770 --> 01:03:29,140
were not really very kindly,
which I find kind of shocking.

1214
01:03:29,140 --> 01:03:32,770
But the kids would come over to
me and even the adults and say,

1215
01:03:32,770 --> 01:03:35,880
do you hate the Germans?

1216
01:03:35,880 --> 01:03:38,010
And even as a kid--

1217
01:03:38,010 --> 01:03:38,880
I was seven--

1218

01:03:38,880 --> 01:03:42,180
I would say, no, I
don't hate the Germans.

1219
01:03:42,180 --> 01:03:44,940
There are good Germans,
and there are bad Germans.

1220
01:03:44,940 --> 01:03:50,840
And the reason I was able to
say that must have had to do--

1221
01:03:50,840 --> 01:03:53,630
it probably also had to do with
discussions with my brother,

1222
01:03:53,630 --> 01:03:58,130
but I think it had a lot
to do with this soldier.

1223
01:03:58,130 --> 01:04:00,950
And it really wasn't
until very recently

1224
01:04:00,950 --> 01:04:04,790
that I started thinking,
well, was this soldier--

1225
01:04:04,790 --> 01:04:07,010
I always somehow
in my life assumed

1226
01:04:07,010 --> 01:04:09,980
that that soldier
knew I was Jewish,

1227
01:04:09,980 --> 01:04:16,605
but recently I thought,
well, did he know?

1228
01:04:16,605 --> 01:04:17,480
Maybe he didn't know.

1229

01:04:17,480 --> 01:04:18,530
Maybe he was just
being nice to me

1230
01:04:18,530 --> 01:04:20,840
because he thought I was a
cute, little Catholic kid.

1231
01:04:20,840 --> 01:04:24,100

1232
01:04:24,100 --> 01:04:27,730
But the point is,
it's irrelevant.

1233
01:04:27,730 --> 01:04:33,140
It's what that guy represented
to me throughout my life,

1234
01:04:33,140 --> 01:04:35,440
whether it was real
or not real, that I

1235
01:04:35,440 --> 01:04:38,410
think was just incredibly
important about that particular

1236
01:04:38,410 --> 01:04:40,220
stage.

1237
01:04:40,220 --> 01:04:43,150
So then there was a lot
of talk between my mother

1238
01:04:43,150 --> 01:04:46,690
and my brother about
what's to be done.

1239
01:04:46,690 --> 01:04:47,980
You can't stay here because--

1240
01:04:47,980 --> 01:04:50,920
I don't know how my

mother managed to--

1241

01:04:50,920 --> 01:04:54,850
my mother couldn't even
talk one word of French.

1242

01:04:54,850 --> 01:04:58,060
How could she carry this
ruse on for two weeks

1243

01:04:58,060 --> 01:05:01,310
of us making believe that
we couldn't speak German?

1244

01:05:01,310 --> 01:05:04,210
I don't know how we managed
to get through that.

1245

01:05:04,210 --> 01:05:09,490
But apparently,
according to my mother--

1246

01:05:09,490 --> 01:05:13,900
my mother says that my
brother said to her one day,

1247

01:05:13,900 --> 01:05:17,590
I'm leaving here whether
you leave or not.

1248

01:05:17,590 --> 01:05:19,510
Now, my brother
doesn't quite remember

1249

01:05:19,510 --> 01:05:27,530
saying anything quite so
dramatic, but in the meantime,

1250

01:05:27,530 --> 01:05:31,100
apparently, my brother tells
me that there were meetings

1251

01:05:31,100 --> 01:05:33,380

amongst these 20 refugees.

1252
01:05:33,380 --> 01:05:38,210
And as a group, they
decided to get out.

1253
01:05:38,210 --> 01:05:39,733
Now, there was only one family--

1254
01:05:39,733 --> 01:05:41,150
and I heard about
this for years--

1255
01:05:41,150 --> 01:05:43,340
there was one family who
decided not to leave,

1256
01:05:43,340 --> 01:05:46,040
and I never knew who
that was until 1989.

1257
01:05:46,040 --> 01:05:49,280
It was this family,
these sisters,

1258
01:05:49,280 --> 01:05:51,890
and that was obviously the
wrong move because they didn't

1259
01:05:51,890 --> 01:05:55,160
get out until '46 or '47.

1260
01:05:55,160 --> 01:05:58,370
So we left all our
stuff in this hotel

1261
01:05:58,370 --> 01:06:01,550
except for a couple of, I
think, pairs of underwear

1262
01:06:01,550 --> 01:06:06,620
and my brother's violin, and
we went very late at night.

1263
01:06:06,620 --> 01:06:09,000
I remember walking
to the train station.

1264
01:06:09,000 --> 01:06:11,480
It was dark, and I
think it was midnight.

1265
01:06:11,480 --> 01:06:13,460
And we went to
the train station,

1266
01:06:13,460 --> 01:06:16,850
and I didn't remember that there
were 20 of us, or 18 of us,

1267
01:06:16,850 --> 01:06:19,040
or whatever it was.

1268
01:06:19,040 --> 01:06:21,710
I only remember my
mother, and my brother,

1269
01:06:21,710 --> 01:06:24,200
and me walking to
the train station.

1270
01:06:24,200 --> 01:06:28,580
And we took the
train, and my brother

1271
01:06:28,580 --> 01:06:30,320
has filled me in
on the funny things

1272
01:06:30,320 --> 01:06:32,330
that happened along the
way and how we actually

1273
01:06:32,330 --> 01:06:34,610
got across the border.

1274

01:06:34,610 --> 01:06:37,280

It was just luck a ruse.

1275

01:06:37,280 --> 01:06:40,220

But the next thing

I remember is being

1276

01:06:40,220 --> 01:06:43,280

in Limoges, which is the
town in southern France

1277

01:06:43,280 --> 01:06:45,980

that's famous for
its China, and I

1278

01:06:45,980 --> 01:06:48,830

think that first night
we actually must have

1279

01:06:48,830 --> 01:06:50,240

slept in the railroad station.

1280

01:06:50,240 --> 01:06:51,950

And I slept on a scale.

1281

01:06:51,950 --> 01:06:54,840

There was a scale in
the railroad station.

1282

01:06:54,840 --> 01:06:57,290

And then we got put up.

1283

01:06:57,290 --> 01:07:00,320

And I thought it was
just for one night,

1284

01:07:00,320 --> 01:07:02,340

but my brother says we
were there for six weeks.

1285

01:07:02,340 --> 01:07:06,590

So you can see that my memory

is distorted compared to his.

1286
01:07:06,590 --> 01:07:12,180
But we got put up in
the concrete bleachers

1287
01:07:12,180 --> 01:07:14,595
of a stadium for the circus.

1288
01:07:14,595 --> 01:07:15,095
Right.

1289
01:07:15,095 --> 01:07:17,880
Yeah, you told me this, right.

1290
01:07:17,880 --> 01:07:22,200
And then ultimately, some
people got together and rented

1291
01:07:22,200 --> 01:07:27,300
these two rooms,
and the rooms were

1292
01:07:27,300 --> 01:07:30,270
each maybe about two or three
times as big as this room.

1293
01:07:30,270 --> 01:07:32,550
And there were 30 women
in the room downstairs,

1294
01:07:32,550 --> 01:07:35,710
and I think I was
the only child.

1295
01:07:35,710 --> 01:07:38,100
And so we lived in there
for several months,

1296
01:07:38,100 --> 01:07:39,570
and all the guys lived upstairs.

1297

01:07:39,570 --> 01:07:41,490
And I think my brother
was the only child

1298
01:07:41,490 --> 01:07:45,660
upstairs, the only one
of the men who was a boy.

1299
01:07:45,660 --> 01:07:48,400
What did your mother do
there when you were there?

1300
01:07:48,400 --> 01:07:50,050
Well, nobody could do anything.

1301
01:07:50,050 --> 01:07:52,390
So you just hung around?

1302
01:07:52,390 --> 01:08:00,930
Well, I seem to remember them
being pretty busy cleaning up.

1303
01:08:00,930 --> 01:08:02,670
They were always cleaning up.

1304
01:08:02,670 --> 01:08:06,033
In the nighttime, we
had these straw sacks

1305
01:08:06,033 --> 01:08:07,950
that we put down on the
floor and we slept on.

1306
01:08:07,950 --> 01:08:10,860
In the morning, we pulled
them up against the wall,

1307
01:08:10,860 --> 01:08:14,490
and there were these
crates, like orange crates.

1308
01:08:14,490 --> 01:08:16,380
And we put those down

as tables and chairs.

1309

01:08:16,380 --> 01:08:19,140

And people were always
sweeping, and cleaning up,

1310

01:08:19,140 --> 01:08:20,550

and walking down.

1311

01:08:20,550 --> 01:08:22,649

Every morning, we walked down--

1312

01:08:22,649 --> 01:08:25,500

I was allowed to get about
3 inches' worth of milk

1313

01:08:25,500 --> 01:08:30,229

in a Coke-sized bottle, and my
mother made me share that with

1314

01:08:30,229 --> 01:08:30,729

my brother.

1315

01:08:30,729 --> 01:08:32,104

So you had to walk
to the store--

1316

01:08:32,104 --> 01:08:33,960

and they measured
this out-- walk back.

1317

01:08:33,960 --> 01:08:36,600

And then there were
always walks begging

1318

01:08:36,600 --> 01:08:37,890

for bread in the bakery.

1319

01:08:37,890 --> 01:08:39,180

That was my job.

1320

01:08:39,180 --> 01:08:42,979

I think I told you about that.

1321
01:08:42,979 --> 01:08:46,970
And just last year, when I
was interviewing my brother,

1322
01:08:46,970 --> 01:08:50,390
I said to him, did
anybody think how-- did I

1323
01:08:50,390 --> 01:08:51,300
tell you about this?

1324
01:08:51,300 --> 01:08:51,872
I said--

1325
01:08:51,872 --> 01:08:52,830
Oh, yeah, how you felt.

1326
01:08:52,830 --> 01:08:55,670
Did anyone think how
demeaning this was to me?

1327
01:08:55,670 --> 01:08:58,490
And my brother looked at me, and
he said, it wasn't demeaning.

1328
01:08:58,490 --> 01:08:59,240
It was bread.

1329
01:08:59,240 --> 01:09:01,069
And I have a sign
in my office that

1330
01:09:01,069 --> 01:09:05,899
says that because it
reminds me of something.

1331
01:09:05,899 --> 01:09:08,720
So anyway, that's where I went
to school for the first year,

1332

01:09:08,720 --> 01:09:12,859
and I think it was a very
lonesome time for me.

1333
01:09:12,859 --> 01:09:18,529
There weren't-- somehow I don't
think I played with the other

1334
01:09:18,529 --> 01:09:19,520
kids after school.

1335
01:09:19,520 --> 01:09:21,200
They lived someplace else.

1336
01:09:21,200 --> 01:09:25,790
We were refugees, which was
probably not a nice thing

1337
01:09:25,790 --> 01:09:26,680
to be.

1338
01:09:26,680 --> 01:09:27,930
Do you know about your mother?

1339
01:09:27,930 --> 01:09:29,555
Did she interact with
the other people?

1340
01:09:29,555 --> 01:09:33,020
Well, she interacted
with the other women.

1341
01:09:33,020 --> 01:09:36,770
You said how she basically
began to changed or whatever.

1342
01:09:36,770 --> 01:09:40,359
Do you think that she
was [? in this-- ?]

1343
01:09:40,359 --> 01:09:43,750
She definitely interacted
with the other women,

1344
01:09:43,750 --> 01:09:49,500
but I have a feeling
that she may not

1345
01:09:49,500 --> 01:09:57,480
have been terribly popular
because she was emotionally

1346
01:09:57,480 --> 01:09:58,710
a downer a lot of the time.

1347
01:09:58,710 --> 01:09:59,940
She was always sad.

1348
01:09:59,940 --> 01:10:02,680
And a lot of other people--

1349
01:10:02,680 --> 01:10:04,590
and I think that's true
of my brother also.

1350
01:10:04,590 --> 01:10:07,860
When we got on the
St. Louis, apparently,

1351
01:10:07,860 --> 01:10:09,885
most people, when
the ship sailed away

1352
01:10:09,885 --> 01:10:11,760
and the captain said,
all right, these people

1353
01:10:11,760 --> 01:10:17,160
are going to be treated like all
other people who are on a tour,

1354
01:10:17,160 --> 01:10:19,770
people were rejoicing,
and dancing,

1355

01:10:19,770 --> 01:10:23,760
and doing all these other
things which my mother was not

1356
01:10:23,760 --> 01:10:25,620
participating in.

1357
01:10:25,620 --> 01:10:30,750
And my brother, even though he
was about 11 or 12 at the time,

1358
01:10:30,750 --> 01:10:33,600
said he was really bothered
that these people were being

1359
01:10:33,600 --> 01:10:36,540
so insensitive, that they
had left people behind

1360
01:10:36,540 --> 01:10:38,220
in dire straits,
that they had just

1361
01:10:38,220 --> 01:10:41,130
come from being in dire
straits and it was not

1362
01:10:41,130 --> 01:10:44,280
a time to dance or sing.

1363
01:10:44,280 --> 01:10:49,530
Well, adult me can
see it both ways.

1364
01:10:49,530 --> 01:10:51,480
Yeah, it's not a time
to dance and sing.

1365
01:10:51,480 --> 01:10:53,190
On the other hand,
I can see where

1366
01:10:53,190 --> 01:10:57,360

if you've been really
hurting for so long

1367
01:10:57,360 --> 01:11:00,270
and there's an opportunity
to do something different,

1368
01:11:00,270 --> 01:11:04,650
then maybe it makes
good mental health sense

1369
01:11:04,650 --> 01:11:11,320
to try to take
advantage of this.

1370
01:11:11,320 --> 01:11:16,585
So I think we spent our time
on the ship rather quietly.

1371
01:11:16,585 --> 01:11:18,210
I must have played
with the other kids,

1372
01:11:18,210 --> 01:11:20,790
and there's a picture
that I sent you a copy of.

1373
01:11:20,790 --> 01:11:22,830
And there seemed to be
quite a lot of kids,

1374
01:11:22,830 --> 01:11:25,590
though most of them,
I think were older,

1375
01:11:25,590 --> 01:11:28,020
and there were a few babies.

1376
01:11:28,020 --> 01:11:33,240
So in Limoges, I went to
school, and I have a feeling

1377
01:11:33,240 --> 01:11:34,350

I was kind of lonesome.

1378
01:11:34,350 --> 01:11:36,180
But there was some--

1379
01:11:36,180 --> 01:11:38,580
I remembered some
really nice things.

1380
01:11:38,580 --> 01:11:43,050
Like there was a carpenter who
couldn't work most of the time,

1381
01:11:43,050 --> 01:11:46,470
and he made me this
wonderful little set

1382
01:11:46,470 --> 01:11:49,230
of red and blue furniture,
tables and chairs,

1383
01:11:49,230 --> 01:11:52,830
and he made upholstery things
with little pieces of wallpaper

1384
01:11:52,830 --> 01:11:54,640
and so on.

1385
01:11:54,640 --> 01:11:56,100
So that was a
really nice thought.

1386
01:11:56,100 --> 01:12:02,580
And then after a few months,
two rooms next door to the two

1387
01:12:02,580 --> 01:12:04,500
rooms we had became available.

1388
01:12:04,500 --> 01:12:07,830
And I don't know why,
but somehow my mother

1389

01:12:07,830 --> 01:12:12,360
was chosen or somehow got to
have the smaller of the two

1390

01:12:12,360 --> 01:12:15,570
rooms with us, and so we didn't
have to sleep on the floor.

1391

01:12:15,570 --> 01:12:17,100
We could put our--

1392

01:12:17,100 --> 01:12:18,705
they would like
orange crate beds

1393

01:12:18,705 --> 01:12:21,330
that somebody had put together,
and we could put our straw bags

1394

01:12:21,330 --> 01:12:22,560
on those.

1395

01:12:22,560 --> 01:12:27,030
That's where I had real
measles, in that room,

1396

01:12:27,030 --> 01:12:29,080
and I remember that
very dramatically.

1397

01:12:29,080 --> 01:12:31,800
I remember for two weeks
lying on my back in this room

1398

01:12:31,800 --> 01:12:34,920
with the dark curtains drawn
because I was so photophobic

1399

01:12:34,920 --> 01:12:40,290
and watching the mold grow on
the ceiling and the drips come

1400

01:12:40,290 --> 01:12:41,280
and drip down.

1401
01:12:41,280 --> 01:12:43,980
And two weeks I was
lying there like that.

1402
01:12:43,980 --> 01:12:49,440
But the two couples
who got the outer room

1403
01:12:49,440 --> 01:12:51,930
were two sisters
married to two brothers.

1404
01:12:51,930 --> 01:12:57,630
One of those brothers was
almost blind, and he somehow--

1405
01:12:57,630 --> 01:13:00,000
even though I think
this was illegal,

1406
01:13:00,000 --> 01:13:04,830
he managed to find some
leather, and he would punch out

1407
01:13:04,830 --> 01:13:07,260
those pieces of leather
that you make, the belts

1408
01:13:07,260 --> 01:13:08,850
that hook into each other.

1409
01:13:08,850 --> 01:13:10,770
And my brother and I
would sometimes help him,

1410
01:13:10,770 --> 01:13:12,990
and I liked doing
that, especially

1411
01:13:12,990 --> 01:13:14,820

because I think he
used to tell us stories

1412
01:13:14,820 --> 01:13:16,500
while we sat and worked.

1413
01:13:16,500 --> 01:13:18,180
So we would sit at
this little window,

1414
01:13:18,180 --> 01:13:19,860
and we would make these belts.

1415
01:13:19,860 --> 01:13:24,990
And that was kind of a
pleasant thing for me.

1416
01:13:24,990 --> 01:13:27,820
Is there anything else you can
think of about your mother?

1417
01:13:27,820 --> 01:13:33,660
Because basically when we write
this [INAUDIBLE] we'll stop

1418
01:13:33,660 --> 01:13:35,970
when you get to America
because that's your--

1419
01:13:35,970 --> 01:13:37,438
the Holocaust.

1420
01:13:37,438 --> 01:13:39,480
So do you think-- is there
anything else that you

1421
01:13:39,480 --> 01:13:43,140
can think of to fill in?

1422
01:13:43,140 --> 01:13:47,115
I think my mother was
extremely somber in those days.

1423

01:13:47,115 --> 01:13:52,520

1424

01:13:52,520 --> 01:13:55,220

We went for-- I remember
going for some long

1425

01:13:55,220 --> 01:13:59,650

walks to try to get food,
and I remember those

1426

01:13:59,650 --> 01:14:03,310

as being somber occasions.

1427

01:14:03,310 --> 01:14:04,870

I may be totally
wrong, but I don't

1428

01:14:04,870 --> 01:14:09,480

remember any laughter or--

1429

01:14:09,480 --> 01:14:13,810

1430

01:14:13,810 --> 01:14:17,110

I think she was
just-- but I have to--

1431

01:14:17,110 --> 01:14:19,210

The only way I can
present her personality,

1432

01:14:19,210 --> 01:14:21,940

really, is to tell
you about after we

1433

01:14:21,940 --> 01:14:24,605

came to America because I
think it must have been worse

1434

01:14:24,605 --> 01:14:25,105

in France.

1435
01:14:25,105 --> 01:14:29,920

1436
01:14:29,920 --> 01:14:33,940
My mother imagined herself
a really aristocratic lady.

1437
01:14:33,940 --> 01:14:36,760
That's the way she
thought of herself.

1438
01:14:36,760 --> 01:14:40,340
And when my aunt, Lena--

1439
01:14:40,340 --> 01:14:44,030
actually, it was her
kids who came with her--

1440
01:14:44,030 --> 01:14:48,020
brought us from the
boat to her house--

1441
01:14:48,020 --> 01:14:50,598
and she lived in the
Lower East Side--

1442
01:14:50,598 --> 01:14:52,640
I was sitting next to my
mother in the back seat,

1443
01:14:52,640 --> 01:14:54,540
and my brother was
sitting next to me.

1444
01:14:54,540 --> 01:14:57,620
And as we drove into
the Lower East Side

1445
01:14:57,620 --> 01:15:02,840
with the pushcarts and this
sort of mass of humanity,

1446

01:15:02,840 --> 01:15:09,900
my mother whispered, for this
I've struggled all these years?

1447

01:15:09,900 --> 01:15:14,380
And I thought, oh my God.

1448

01:15:14,380 --> 01:15:16,690
What a terrible thing to say.

1449

01:15:16,690 --> 01:15:18,670
Even though maybe I was--

1450

01:15:18,670 --> 01:15:21,100
maybe I was also
feeling part of that,

1451

01:15:21,100 --> 01:15:23,830
but maybe I was worried that
somebody was going to hear

1452

01:15:23,830 --> 01:15:24,640
or what.

1453

01:15:24,640 --> 01:15:36,335
But she just-- and
then when my aunt--

1454

01:15:36,335 --> 01:15:37,960
we lived with my aunt
for three months,

1455

01:15:37,960 --> 01:15:41,310
and my aunt got
sick at one point.

1456

01:15:41,310 --> 01:15:43,980
And in retrospect, we
should have been really

1457

01:15:43,980 --> 01:15:45,840
grateful for being put up.

1458
01:15:45,840 --> 01:15:48,780
And I think my mother
really was very grateful,

1459
01:15:48,780 --> 01:15:51,120
but at the same time,
when my aunt got

1460
01:15:51,120 --> 01:15:56,310
sick and needed somebody
to make her a cup of tea,

1461
01:15:56,310 --> 01:15:59,310
my mother had no idea
how to make a cup of tea

1462
01:15:59,310 --> 01:16:00,870
because she'd been so--

1463
01:16:00,870 --> 01:16:04,620
Now, part of that had
to be a put-up job

1464
01:16:04,620 --> 01:16:07,020
because in France
in those two years,

1465
01:16:07,020 --> 01:16:09,990
everybody was struggling
making meals and so on.

1466
01:16:09,990 --> 01:16:14,440

1467
01:16:14,440 --> 01:16:16,830
I think it was more
maybe when she was asked

1468
01:16:16,830 --> 01:16:18,270
to make cereal or something.

1469

01:16:18,270 --> 01:16:19,200
She had never done it.

1470
01:16:19,200 --> 01:16:23,610
She hadn't a clue and so on.

1471
01:16:23,610 --> 01:16:28,650
But she was a very
giving person, and so

1472
01:16:28,650 --> 01:16:32,430
when we finally got an apartment
after three months and we had--

1473
01:16:32,430 --> 01:16:35,317
I think she was earning
\$35 or \$45 a month,

1474
01:16:35,317 --> 01:16:36,150
something like that.

1475
01:16:36,150 --> 01:16:39,010

1476
01:16:39,010 --> 01:16:39,760
No, wait a minute.

1477
01:16:39,760 --> 01:16:40,480
What was she earning?

1478
01:16:40,480 --> 01:16:42,580
She was earning \$15 a
week-- that's what it was--

1479
01:16:42,580 --> 01:16:46,250
and the rent was \$45 a month.

1480
01:16:46,250 --> 01:16:48,890
And she would buy things for us.

1481
01:16:48,890 --> 01:16:51,470
Sometimes she'd even come home

with a little treat for us,

1482
01:16:51,470 --> 01:16:54,260
and she was living on
toast and tomatoes.

1483
01:16:54,260 --> 01:16:56,390
It was all for us.

1484
01:16:56,390 --> 01:16:59,250

1485
01:16:59,250 --> 01:17:04,380
But she wore black for
years and years and years.

1486
01:17:04,380 --> 01:17:05,190
It wasn't until--

1487
01:17:05,190 --> 01:17:08,548

1488
01:17:08,548 --> 01:17:09,090
I don't know.

1489
01:17:09,090 --> 01:17:10,988
She must have been--

1490
01:17:10,988 --> 01:17:11,530
I don't know.

1491
01:17:11,530 --> 01:17:13,905
I don't know when it happened,
but she would occasionally

1492
01:17:13,905 --> 01:17:16,110
put on something red.

1493
01:17:16,110 --> 01:17:21,240
But for years-- and then
there was that whole struggle

1494

01:17:21,240 --> 01:17:24,360
of when I tried to
put on something black

1495

01:17:24,360 --> 01:17:27,180
and she would say, there'll
be time enough for that.

1496

01:17:27,180 --> 01:17:30,480
Don't wear-- if you
have to wear black,

1497

01:17:30,480 --> 01:17:33,140
put on a flower or
something like that.

1498

01:17:33,140 --> 01:17:35,690

1499

01:17:35,690 --> 01:17:39,650
She often complained
about her state in life,

1500

01:17:39,650 --> 01:17:43,040
and I don't blame her.

1501

01:17:43,040 --> 01:17:46,520
But she also-- she
didn't have any guidance.

1502

01:17:46,520 --> 01:17:50,070
She could have had a
fantastically better life.

1503

01:17:50,070 --> 01:17:53,270
She could have been a
fantastic bookkeeper,

1504

01:17:53,270 --> 01:17:55,130
but nobody guided her.

1505

01:17:55,130 --> 01:17:59,300

So she ended up leading her
life in the factories, which

1506
01:17:59,300 --> 01:18:00,950
she hated because she--

1507
01:18:00,950 --> 01:18:06,260
it wasn't so much the work as
it was the demeaning atmosphere.

1508
01:18:06,260 --> 01:18:14,910
She felt that she was with
these uneducated, boorish people

1509
01:18:14,910 --> 01:18:15,410
who--

1510
01:18:15,410 --> 01:18:18,290

1511
01:18:18,290 --> 01:18:21,260
I think, occasionally, maybe
even people made passes at her,

1512
01:18:21,260 --> 01:18:23,510
which she found--

1513
01:18:23,510 --> 01:18:27,260
She was so Victorian
that even when

1514
01:18:27,260 --> 01:18:31,062
she was in the
nursing home in her--

1515
01:18:31,062 --> 01:18:32,270
no, it wasn't a nursing home.

1516
01:18:32,270 --> 01:18:35,930
It was when she was living
in a senior citizen thing

1517

01:18:35,930 --> 01:18:37,790
when we moved her
up to Brooklyn,

1518
01:18:37,790 --> 01:18:40,190
and she belonged to
some golden age club.

1519
01:18:40,190 --> 01:18:42,500
And I think she was 80 by then.

1520
01:18:42,500 --> 01:18:45,320
And one day, she called
me up, and it was raining.

1521
01:18:45,320 --> 01:18:47,750
And she said some
80-year-old man offered her

1522
01:18:47,750 --> 01:18:49,140
a ride back to her apartment.

1523
01:18:49,140 --> 01:18:51,770
I said, good, did you take it?

1524
01:18:51,770 --> 01:18:53,420
Who do you think I am?

1525
01:18:53,420 --> 01:18:55,970
Would I take a ride
with a strange man?

1526
01:18:55,970 --> 01:18:58,580

1527
01:18:58,580 --> 01:19:02,840
So she had this
image of herself.

1528
01:19:02,840 --> 01:19:05,210
She never would have thought
of getting remarried.

1529

01:19:05,210 --> 01:19:09,830

She wouldn't-- she
was so Victorian.

1530

01:19:09,830 --> 01:19:17,590

The idea of-- no man was allowed
to touch her except my father.

1531

01:19:17,590 --> 01:19:21,070

1532

01:19:21,070 --> 01:19:24,400

And she had a terrible time
getting used to America

1533

01:19:24,400 --> 01:19:28,330

because one time she came in for
a job interview or something,

1534

01:19:28,330 --> 01:19:31,390

and the boss was sitting
on his chair with his feet

1535

01:19:31,390 --> 01:19:32,890

up on the desk.

1536

01:19:32,890 --> 01:19:39,550

While, she thought that that was
treating her in a terrible way.

1537

01:19:39,550 --> 01:19:41,470

Or for example, when
people would call her

1538

01:19:41,470 --> 01:19:46,220

by her first name without
being invited because in Vienna

1539

01:19:46,220 --> 01:19:49,870

she was Frau Dr. Reif.

1540

01:19:49,870 --> 01:19:52,820

And the least she expected
was to be Mrs. Reif.

1541
01:19:52,820 --> 01:19:55,690

1542
01:19:55,690 --> 01:19:59,500
So she had a lot of those--

1543
01:19:59,500 --> 01:20:03,280
she was just very
European, but she also--

1544
01:20:03,280 --> 01:20:06,580
she adapted very
well in other ways.

1545
01:20:06,580 --> 01:20:10,720
She got to be really good
at shopping and knowing

1546
01:20:10,720 --> 01:20:13,150
where to get bargains.

1547
01:20:13,150 --> 01:20:19,540
And she was very--

1548
01:20:19,540 --> 01:20:22,820
she was always very energetic.

1549
01:20:22,820 --> 01:20:25,780
It's just that she didn't
always channel her energy.

1550
01:20:25,780 --> 01:20:29,553
Like when she went to work
in New York in the morning,

1551
01:20:29,553 --> 01:20:30,970
she would get up,
I think, at 6:00

1552

01:20:30,970 --> 01:20:32,387
in the morning to
be able to leave

1553
01:20:32,387 --> 01:20:35,150
the house at a quarter to 8:00.

1554
01:20:35,150 --> 01:20:38,420
And during that time,
she must have expended--

1555
01:20:38,420 --> 01:20:40,670
you could have built a house
with the amount of energy

1556
01:20:40,670 --> 01:20:44,030
she expended during that,
just in the process of getting

1557
01:20:44,030 --> 01:20:47,390
herself dressed, and
makeup, and a hat,

1558
01:20:47,390 --> 01:20:51,650
and hatpins, and stockings,
and shoes, and all this thing.

1559
01:20:51,650 --> 01:20:54,350
And then she'd get to
Manhattan and take it all off

1560
01:20:54,350 --> 01:20:58,670
and put on some work clothes
that she had at the factory.

1561
01:20:58,670 --> 01:21:00,140
But then she'd
put it all back on

1562
01:21:00,140 --> 01:21:03,950
to take the subway back home.

1563
01:21:03,950 --> 01:21:05,420

What else do you want to know?

1564

01:21:05,420 --> 01:21:08,300

I think that's painting
a very nice picture.

1565

01:21:08,300 --> 01:21:10,190

I think we can definitely--

1566

01:21:10,190 --> 01:21:12,260

because we have the storyline.

1567

01:21:12,260 --> 01:21:12,922

Right.

1568

01:21:12,922 --> 01:21:14,630

Well, let me add one
more thing because I

1569

01:21:14,630 --> 01:21:18,140

don't want to leave you
with the wrong impression.

1570

01:21:18,140 --> 01:21:20,000

She was very good-natured.

1571

01:21:20,000 --> 01:21:21,710

Like she'd play cards with me.

1572

01:21:21,710 --> 01:21:24,890

If I was bored, she'd
play cards with me.

1573

01:21:24,890 --> 01:21:28,010

Or if I needed to memorize
a poem for school,

1574

01:21:28,010 --> 01:21:30,080

even though she
was exhausted, she

1575

01:21:30,080 --> 01:21:31,790

would sit up in bed
at night and have

1576
01:21:31,790 --> 01:21:39,140
me recite over and over again
"If" by Rudyard Kipling.

1577
01:21:39,140 --> 01:21:41,460
I just remember that one in
particular, but many things

1578
01:21:41,460 --> 01:21:41,960
like that.

1579
01:21:41,960 --> 01:21:47,390
She was really very
good about always

1580
01:21:47,390 --> 01:21:52,105
trying to do things to
try to make me happy.

1581
01:21:52,105 --> 01:21:56,710

1582
01:21:56,710 --> 01:22:00,640
So I think there was a really
fun-loving person there

1583
01:22:00,640 --> 01:22:08,170
that never got to come out
because of the way life went.

1584
01:22:08,170 --> 01:22:11,620

1585
01:22:11,620 --> 01:22:14,100
Well, thank you very much.

1586
01:22:14,100 --> 01:22:17,191