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Summary

Simonne Jameson was born on July 18, 1928 in Paris, France with a *caul*, a skin membrane covering the entire head, considered a lucky omen of protection in folklore. Her parents were Nephtali Levi and Fourtunee (née Sultan); he was born in Alexandria, Egypt, her mother in Algeria. They moved to Paris when they married at the age of 28-30. Arabic was spoken at home. She had a sister eight years older and a younger brother. Her father worked at the National Library as a librarian, she as a men's tailor. They lived in National Library annex and led a cultural life including opera, readings and classical music.

When they were dispossessed from their home, they found an apartment on the same floor as a police commissioner, George Boucher, with whom they became friendly. While running an errand, Simonne was detained by a local policeman for a small violation, taken to a different local commander, and raped. She confided to Boucher, who did nothing. When the family was given a deportation order to Bordeaux in 1941, Boucher provided false papers for her parents and brother to go to Bordeaux to live with their daughter. Simonne stayed behind under Boucher's care as a purported friend as only one child was permitted to go. Knowing that Simonne was no longer a virgin (but still only about 12-13 years old), he set her up in a small cellar room of the library annex as a captive periodically raping her, and allowing her to be raped by others until 1944. Her sister, who had been working in Bordeaux, came to fetch her, but Boucher said she'd been deported. Simonne helped maintain her sanity by constantly reading books and fending off rats.

Simonne became pregnant at the end of 1942. A police doctor performed an abortion with little post-operative treatment. When she recovered, the rapes continued, while she also suffered from numerous other ailments. At liberation, an older man took her to a doctor for recovery and to provide a certificate of virginity. Once released, she returned home and found her father there. She never told her father, though she tormented her mother for leaving her by telling of her suffering. Simonne discovered that Boucher had become Charles deGaulle's commissioner. She visited him for an explanation, but left when he threatened to confine her to an asylum if she publicly accused him.

She was married briefly but her in-laws turned her away as she didn't know kosher practices. She then met Irving Bogart, a man 30 years older than she, with whom she had all four of her children. Through him, she met Carl Jung and both underwent and trained analysis and trained as a child psychologist. She describes her life with him and with other lovers after Bogart left her.

She adopted and raised a 5-year-old male child abuse victim in the mid-1970s. Simonne talks at length about her concerns that she was actually the daughter of her aunt (mother's sister), Louisa, who died in Auschwitz.

She spent seven post-war years in Switzerland and rarely re-visited Paris. She moved to Australia in 1976. She is not well-versed in Jewish holidays and customs and her children are not practicing Jews. She formed the Children's Rights Foundation in 1980 in Australia and has provided child assistance worldwide. She ran a school for autistic children in Switzerland.