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3
4 TAPE NO. 25, Side 1

5 INTERVIEW WITH: HALINA ROSEN KRANTZ and ELLA LEBOWITZ

6 REPORTER-TRANSCRIBER: JOHN W. SCHRIMPER, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

7
8 By Woman Interviewer

9 Q You're Lebowitz?

10 A That's right. *(Ella Lebowitz)*

11 THIRD WOMAN: No. We're both married names.

12 Q O. K. Which?

13 THIRD WOMAN: O. K. Our maiden name is Putstein.
(Halina Rosen Krantz)

14 Q Uh-huh. And your mother and father?

15 THIRD WOMAN: Were both in a concentration camp.

16 They were both in Auschwitz. My father was in Auschwitz
17 for about nine months, my mother about two years.

18 Q And they came from?

19 THIRD WOMAN: Poland.

20 Q Do you know the town?

21 THIRD WOMAN: My mother came from Yahnaw, and my
22 father came from Beranauvich.

23 Q And when you were young, did your parents talk about
24 the war?

25 THIRD WOMAN: Not very much. My father would at

1 times speak, do things here and there. But I didn't
2 hear about it too much.

3 A (Second woman - first answering on line 10, page 1)
4 We have a little bit of a different prospective. I spoke a
5 lot more to my mother. I mean, I was pretty inquisitive about
6 it.

7 We weren't born in this country. O. K. And when
8 we first came here, it was unusual-- I was about 6 years old,
9 and it was unusual for a child of 6 not to have grandparents
10 nor other relatives like most other children that you went to
11 school with. And that, I became curious as to where they
12 were.

13 So it was really my questions that more or less
14 stipulated conversation. My parents would answer my ques-
15 tions. They wouldn't give me any more than my questions.

16 And as I got older, my questions became more --
17 they were just more in depth.

18 Q Like, what would you say?

19 A You know, I guess as I child, I asked where my grand-
20 parents were, and my mother told me that they were killed or
21 they died during the war. And I would ask how and what hap-
22 pened, and my mother would tell me.

23 But it would be^a fleeting, brief story, and I was
24 pretty satisfied with that.

25 As time went on, I needed to know more. I needed

1 to know exactly what happened. I needed to know what my
2 mother was feeling while it was happening, you know.

3 It's just that the questions became much more intri-
4 cate, you know, and the responses became a little bit more
5 emotional.

6 Q And then you knew something was--

7 A Oh, yes, I knew, sure. You know, as a kid, I felt
8 that my parents were -- my parents could do anything, you
9 know, and I was pretty amazed by that.

10 But they had survived such a horrible ordeal, and
11 here they are, my parents, you know, doing rather normal
12 things that other parents do.

13 And as I got older and was able to step back a lit-
14 tle bit, I see that they weren't like most people. They were
15 functioning; they were functioning, but there was a certain,
16 I guess you could say pain, sadness that was just part of
17 their being. I mean, happiness was not something that was
18 part of our household, really. Not that it was an unhappy
19 household. It was just not-- Good things were not really
20 acknowledged.

21 There was always that fear that everything was going
22 to disappear very soon. Anyway, let's not be too happy, be-
23 cause once it disappears, you won't feel it as badly if you
24 don't, you know, goad yourself up to this whole thing.

25 Q Did you sense that as a child?

1 A Oh, yes. Yes, you know, both my sister and I. I
2 mean, we were different from our friends. We were very pro-
3 tective of our parents. We worried about our parents. When
4 our parents didn't come home, we were nervous wrecks.

5 You know, this is, we're talking about -- how old
6 were we? 8, 9, 10 years old? You know, I mean, it was really--

7 Q So that there was a role reversal?

8 A Yes. Not an acknowledged role reversal. We didn't
9 know it as or think of it in terms of, I didn't feel con-
10 sciously that I was a parent to my parents. But I realize
11 now that I was a pretty worried little kid. I mean, it was
12 just, you know, I was -- I was worried.

13 Most little children, I feel, don't tend to worry
14 about their parents as intensely as we do.

15 Q They take them for granted?

16 A Sure. You know, and it was just-- And I see that
17 that certainly colored my adulthood, you know, because you
18 try not to -- you try not to become too wrapped up on this
19 whole thing, you find that every step that you take in your
20 life goes right back to your parents and how it is going to
21 affect them, because the way it's going to affect them, is
22 going to affect you.

23 So every move is a cautious move, and everything
24 hurts, and it's just-- And it's very hard to separate, very
25 hard to separate, because the family is as small as it is

1 and because they need you as much as they do and because you
2 need them as much as you do, you know.

3 I mean, there is not that much of an extended family
4 that if you and your parents decide to part ways, then you're
5 left. You know, at least that's the way it is with us. I
6 mean, it's just the immediate family with maybe two cousins.

7 So there aren't really too many people to turn to.

8 Q Did you want those, about getting married and leav-
9 ing them?

10 A Oh, yes. I mean, marriage is a normal part of life.
11 You have to get married. And you get married to -- to what?--
12 to extend the family, you know.

13 And when you are married and you haven't extended
14 the family the way you're supposed to or your're not as close
15 to your parents as they would have liked you to be, there's
16 a lot of guilt attached to all of that.

17 So marriage was supposed to be an extended family
18 for them. O. K.?

19 But we live in a society today where we don't all
20 live under one roof. And I live in New Rochelle, she lives
21 in the Bronx, they live in the Bronx. I'm moving up to
22 Hawthorne. You know. And it's a whole -- everybody is like
23 all over the place.

24 And that's disappointing to them. Not to me. I
25 mean, I realize as an adult, I want my privacy.

1 Q Yes.

2 A You know, but--

3 Q But you feel guilty?

4 A Oh, yes, terrible, you know. But you learn to live
5 with guilt too. You know.

6 Q Yes.

7 A It becomes like-- It becomes part of you. Well,
8 you go and do all sorts of-- You can tell guilty jokes, and
9 you go and-- I mean, it really is comical. It just becomes
10 part of you, and you can't get rid of it. You can't get rid
11 of it, so you start to live with it, and you try not to let
12 it stop you from doing things that you need to do to survive.
13 Really, it's just basically the same thing.

14 Q Now did you pick up this idea of sadness and not be-
15 ing joyful because it may not last, that it was temporary,
16 when you were little?

17 THIRD WOMAN: Yes, I picked it up very much at
18 home as well. With me, it was-- I could never be my-
19 self. I was always occupied with my parents, taking
20 care of them, watching over them, making sure that every-
21 thing is O. K.

22 I never had time for myself to do anything that I
23 really wanted to do.

24 Q Taking care of them -- they exuded that need to be
25 taken care of?

1 THIRD WOMAN: Yes. Very much so. I remember as a
2 little girl, that that's what they needed.

3 Q Well, how did they express that? I know it's hard
4 to-- (Pause.)

5 THIRD WOMAN: How did they express that?

6 A Not verbally. I mean, they didn't verbally say,
7 "Take care of me." All right. It started with simple things.

8 When we came to this country, we picked up the
9 language very quickly. O. K. My parents-- I mean, my parents
10 were pretty young during the war, you know, when the war broke
11 out. My mother was what, 10? You know. My father, I think,
12 was about 18 or 17.

13 I mean, their schooling was stopped. Everything
14 was stopped, you know. And it was just, as far as the caliber
15 of their education, it was really limited. O. K.

16 Q So they never had a childhood?

17 A No, no. Their childhood was -- it stopped. I mean,
18 it came to a halt, and this terrible thing happened, and they
19 grew up pretty quickly.

20 When we came here -- O. K. -- learning the language,
21 they were able to take care of our basic needs. They are
22 survivors. O. K. Food, clothing, shelter, I mean, they were
23 really intense, you know.

24 I was born in Poland. We were both born in Poland.

25 I mean, my parents picked up, left Poland. We moved

1 to Germany. They started a whole new life in Germany, left
2 Germany, came to America, started a whole new -- from nothing.
3 Each time from nothing. I mean, after the war, we stayed in
4 Poland till 1957. And Poland was and is a Communist country.
5 You leave Poland, you leave everything.

6 So from 1945 till 1957, everything they have ac-
7 cumulated, everything they've worked for, every material
8 possession that they have acquired, was taken again. I mean,
9 they left with their wedding bands and us. You know, I mean,
10 it was just--

11 And they were able to make it again in Germany and
12 then leave Germany and make it again here. O. K. So they
13 are definitely survivors.

14 Their needs were much more emotional, much more
15 emotional, you know.

16 As children, we were not really allowed to be un-
17 happy, because that would make them unhappy. So you took
18 care of them by trying to not burden them with too many of
19 your troubles or by trying to act out your troubles some-
20 where else. O. K.

21 My sister would write letters for my parents, be-
22 cause business letters, they couldn't really put together.
23 And then when I got older and she moved out, it was like I
24 took over that role, you know. We would correct their let-
25 ters.

1 They wouldn't really make moves without asking us.

2 Q So they were very dependent?

3 THIRD WOMAN: Extremely dependent on us for every-
4 thing. Business-wise, household things. They just
5 don't feel secure making their own decisions. So I felt
6 like we were the advisers.

7 Q So in other words, your childhood was not taken away
8 from you, but you didn't have a normal childhood of being
9 free from worries and cares?

10 THIRD WOMAN: No. I kind of resent that a little
11 bit -- O. K. -- because-- (Pause.)

12 A It's true, we didn't.

13 THIRD WOMAN: O. K. But I feel guilty saying that.
14 You know. I mean, that's like happening right now.

15 Because if you were to say that to them, they would
16 say, you know, my parents would say, you know, "Why do
17 you feel that way? We gave you everything." And they
18 did; and they did. I mean they couldn't-- "No" was a
19 word that was not part of their vocabulary when it came
20 to us, you know.

21 But there is no understanding that it has got to
22 go further than material things, you know.

23 And, "Why are you crying? You have clothing. You
24 have toys. You have everything. Why are you crying?"
25 Like there is no other reason to cry, you know.

1 And as a teen-ager, you walk around very angry.
2 Because what do teen-agers go through? Identity crisis.
3 I mean, you go through so many weird things, sure. And
4 it's just like, "What are you telling me I shouldn't
5 cry?" and things, you know.

6 And you walk around very angry, and you walk around
7 feeling that your parents almost are telling you that
8 you don't deserve to be unhappy.

9 Q Because they faced such unhappiness?

10 THIRD WOMAN: Right. And you feel afraid, and you
11 feel like you don't deserve. Why am I unhappy? I'm not
12 in a concentration camp. I wasn't there. You know.

13 I have my parents. I mean, you know, I didn't lose
14 seven sisters and brothers. I mean I, you know, my
15 sister is right here, you know, everybody is here.

16 I went to school, you know, I went out, I did all
17 the things people are just supposed to do. So why am I
18 unhappy?

19 Q They had no right?

20 THIRD WOMAN: No. This is the message that they
21 were giving, you know, unconsciously, and it hurts them,
22 and they really can't understand it. O. K. They
23 really can't understand it.

24 What I am saying right now is not understood, not
25 because they are not -- they don't have the intellectual

1 capacity for understanding, but because they don't have
2 the emotional capacity for understanding.

3 No more guilt. You know, it's like no more guilt.
4 I mean, it's just like, "I couldn't handle being responsible
5 for your unhappiness," you know, it's just like, so it's
6 no more, you know.

7 Q It doesn't exist?

8 THIRD WOMAN: No. And even coming here, you know,
9 for them, they don't understand why, really, why we
10 are. They do, but they don't, you know.

11 Q Are they here?

12 THIRD WOMAN: No. No. And for them, you know,
13 which was very interesting, because I always felt that
14 my parents were pretty well well-adjusted -- O. K. --
15 they didn't have nightmares that I knew about -- O. K.
16 -- they didn't -- there were really no episodes in the
17 house that was so blatant, you know. I mean, everybody
18 was nervous and tense and anxious all the time, but it
19 wasn't the blatant kind of thing.

20 I mean, I have heard other stories from other chil-
21 dren of survivors, and it was a little bit more intense.

22 But--

23 I lost my trend of thought.

24 We were talking about our coming here and their
25 feelings about our coming here.

1 I never realized the kind of an impact that the
2 Holocaust had on my parents till right now. And I al-
3 ways thought I was pretty in-touch with what was happen-
4 ing, you know.

5 My mother was supposed to come with me originally.
6 And I was looking forward to it, planning it. I don't
7 really know what I was expecting by having my mother
8 here with me. Maybe to get to know her on an even deeper
9 level. I don't know.

10 But all of a sudden, she turned to me and said she
11 can't go, you know. And that angered me, you know, hurt
12 me, annoyed me. I was just going through all these
13 feelings. I yelled at her, felt terrible afterwards.

14 But then she said to me that she just -- she says
15 she cannot go. She feels that it would hurt her too
16 much to go.

17 O. K. Now this is a lady who reads every book
18 that has ever been written on the Holocaust, from every
19 survivor's book to every historical account to every-
20 thing, watches every program. O. K.

21 So it took me back a little bit, that she is able
22 to visually experience all this but not--

23 And then I realized that that's different than be-
24 ing here. You know, it's different. And-- (Pause.)

25 Q She is more contented reading the--

1 THIRD WOMAN: Oh, sure. She is able to separate
2 also, and she is able to remember what she wants to re-
3 member.

4 But here, I think being with other survivors and
5 just the whole being here, I mean, not that it's that
6 depressing walking around here -- it really is not --
7 it's almost chaotic -- you know, you can't even -- you
8 really can't experience anything.

9 But there is a certain sense of sadness. Every
10 once in a while, you just get very choked up.

11 And I could see where this would be a very painful
12 experience for her. You know. I was-- I understood
13 after a while. I understood her not being able to go.
14 I accepted it. I even respect it. O. K. I'm still a
15 little annoyed with the fact that she can't understand
16 my need to go.

17 And I told her that. I said--

18 It's not-- You know, I say this, this remember thing,
19 you know, never forget this whole thing. I mean, those
20 -- those-- That goes without saying. O. K.

21 For me it's -- I think it's being closer -- closer
22 -- yes, closer to my family, closer to my roots.

23 Q Why are you here?

24 THIRD WOMAN: I can't talk.

25 A I came here for myself, to-- My parents have mentioned

1 very few times they were in concentration camps, especially
2 my father, because I spoke mainly to him.

3 And the way things were going in the household, it
4 was very confusing to me. Because in a way it was-- One
5 moment they would say they were in a concentration camp.
6 Another time they would make believe that everything was fine
7 and dandy and that they were never really in a concentration
8 camp.

9 So I was 30 years of my life very confused, whether
10 these people were there or they weren't there.

11 As time went on, I discovered more things about
12 myself. And I found it necessary to come here to prove to
13 myself that my parents were in the concentration camps and
14 that it really did exist.

15 And it's a very meaningful thing for me to be here.

16 Q To understand what they are so afraid of, and then
17 living -- still living in fear and self-denial.

18 WOMAN: Self-denial?

19 Q Well, you are saying that -- you confused me --
20 "Where were the concentration camps? Where were the con-
21 centration camps?"

22 What these people are saying that I'm interviewing
23 is that they couldn't believe it, that that happened over
24 and over again. O. K. When people came back and said, "They
25 are burning people in the ovens," people of Warsaw did not

1 read their own [Inaudible.]

2 So there is this going back and forth: It can be,
3 it shouldn't be, it didn't happen. But it did.

4 THIRD WOMAN: But you see, my parents never-- My
5 parents do say, "Was I really there?" O. K. I mean,
6 "How did I survive that?" you know.

7 But there was never a moment's doubt to me that
8 they were there.

9 Q So you two had different--

10 THIRD WOMAN: Different perspectives. Uh-huh.
11 That's right. Yes, well--

12 Q You are the oldest?

13 THIRD WOMAN: Uh-huh. Yes.

14 Q I don't understand.

15 A I was busy trying to make them happy, to satisfy
16 them. I felt that was my role since I was a kid. That I
17 really didn't have time to realize whether they were in a
18 camp or not. I just know I had to make these people happy.
19 That was my thing to do.

20 So I had no time to think about why they are the
21 way they are, or anything like that.

22 THIRD WOMAN: You know, they did speak to me --
23 more
24 O. K. -- much/about their experiences than they did to
25 my sister, only because I asked -- I asked. O. K.

And interestingly enough, I interviewed my mother,

1 because I'm doing a master's thesis on the communication
2 between survivors and their children and the different
3 levels of communication within one household -- O. K. --
4 which is so blatant. I mean, it's right here in my own.

5 And when I interviewed my mother -- and I interviewed
6 my sister because my focus is on first-borns and the
7 survivor -- my mother, when I asked her, "Did you talk
8 about your Holocaust experiences with your child?" she
9 said, "No."

10 And I almost fell through the floor. You know.
11 And it was like-- It was only a, like a pilot kind of
12 sample interview that I did. But I wanted to cut the
13 interview right there and say, "Ma, how could you pos-
14 sibly say that?" We'd spend nights talking about this,
15 like all the time. "How could you say?"

16 But she was focusing on Ella. And it was--

17 Yes, that's right, they didn't. Maybe because
18 there is a four-year difference and when Ella was born,
19 it was still a lot more painful. I mean, for whatever
20 reason, you know.

21 I have interviewed many survivors that say they
22 haven't discussed it with their children because their
23 children never ask, almost as if it's the child's re-
24 sponsibility to try to draw this out, you know.

25 And so it's not shocking to me. I mean, I understand

1 why, why it's different for the both of us. I mean, our
2 relationships were different with our parents.

3 Q Yes.

4 THIRD WOMAN: All of the feelings were very much
5 the same. I mean, we share a lot of common feelings
6 and a lot of common fears and the guilt. Oh, I mean,
7 the guilt is like throughout, you know. But-- (Pause.)

8 Q Common fears or-- Why do you call them fears?

9 THIRD WOMAN: I have a daughter of my own, and I
10 have experienced about five, six years of her life,
11 things that I went through as a child.

12 It's hard.

13 Q It's all right.

14 WOMAN'S VOICE: It's hot.

15 OTHER WOMAN'S VOICE: It is hot, very hot.

16 THIRD WOMAN: For the past year, as I worked on my-
17 self, things have improved a great deal. But prior to
18 that time, there was a lot of difficulty. I was very
19 confused on how to raise my daughter.

20 Deep inside, I knew what I -- how I wanted to raise
21 her. But because of the way I was raised, it was very
22 confusing. I imitated a lot of the things that my parents
23 had done to me.

24 But I just-- I see through her a lot of things
25 that occurred to me when I was at her age. And--

1 Q It sounds very frightening to you.

2 THIRD WOMAN: When I leave her with my parents
3 sometimes when I go to work for a day, whatever, I'd come
4 home -- not so much now, but in the past, about a few
5 months ago -- I would look at her face, and I would see
6 my face.

7 And I would tell my daughter, I said, "Look, Rachel,
8 now you're with me. You're not with your Grandma and
9 Grandpa. So like you don't have to carry these heavy
10 burdens."

11 She looked like I was really talking about myself.
12 I just remember, always carry people on me, meaning my
13 mother on one -- my father on one shoulder, my mother
14 on the other.

15 And it's through her that I see a lot of the things
16 that I went through.

17 Q And she is, of course, not feeling it as intensely
18 as you do?

19 THIRD WOMAN: No, she is not.

20 Q She can't.

21 THIRD WOMAN: No.

22 Q But it is very frightening to you because it brings
23 all that-- (Pause.)

24 THIRD WOMAN: Yes, because I think she'll be going
25 through the same thing that I went through. And I just

1 don't want that to happen.

2 But it's not so because I see a lot of things much
3 clearer now. And I thought we have good communication,
4 and I do discuss with her the things that my parents
5 went through, and we occasionally watch programs together
6 on Hitler, and we also took a book out from the library,
7 she wanted to.

8 This is all of her own asking.

9 And communication is working out very well now.

10 Q And so she has picked up this stuff then and, as a
11 kid, will know how much trouble?

12 THIRD WOMAN: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. I felt I had to
13 tell her about all these things, because I've always
14 had a lot of -- so many anxiety attacks, and she sees
15 it a lot.

16 So I felt by explaining it to her, it makes it
17 easier for me for her to understand why I act the way
18 I do. I try to explain as simply as possible. And
19 it's very good.

20 Q Do you help her? I was going to ask her.

21 A Do I help? Yes. I guess I help-- I help Matt as
22 much as I'd like to help. O. K. I'm pretty -- pretty sep-
23 arate. I don't really see my niece as often as I'd like to
24 or I think I should.

25 I'm helpful in the sense that I'm very affectionate

1 towards her, something that was very difficult for my parents.
2 And sometimes my affection towards her is almost forced, be-
3 cause it doesn't come that easily for me either. But I want
4 to be affectionate because I think that children need that,
5 and that's a certain -- there's a certain stability in that.

6 I'm trying to see where I was lacking, and I try
7 to give those things to her, because I-- You know, so I
8 guess on that level, I help. I mean, I'm aware, and I'm--
9 We're close, you know. I feel as though she knows that I
10 love her, and that's very important to me. You know.

11 Q You don't have any children then?

12 A No.

13 Q No?

14 A No. Which is also another issue, you know, having
15 children, you know. Most survivor families, that's what you
16 do, you have children. And--

17 Q Build it up again?

18 A Yes. And I have it, you know. Having children is
19 just not the thing that I'm not sure about, you know. I
20 don't know why exactly. Part of it is because I have a lot
21 in my life, and I feel that -- I really feel unsure of
22 whether I'm capable of giving to a child, raising a child,
23 you know.

24 And then there's fear. There's a lot of fear.
25 There's the fear of being healthy. You know. Physical ailment,

1 sickness, is something that you live with all the time,
2 more so, I think, than most, than most families, you know.
3 Just the fear of things going wrong. Everybody feels that
4 way. But I feel that I feel it more intensely. Maybe that's
5 just my own thing, but I just feel that I feel it more.

6 I know that every young woman is deathly afraid of
7 having a baby and it not being healthy. O. K. But most of
8 those fears start when they become pregnant. You know. I've
9 already made my decision that, you know, the chances are that
10 maybe my baby won't be healthy, and therefore I just keep
11 putting it off.

12 You know. I mean, I live with the fear, even -- when
13 I even possibly think about it, I just kind of push it away
14 because of that, you know. So-- (Pause.)

15 Q Including a lot of fears to handle this?

16 A Yes. Yes.

17 Q Do you think this is any help?

18 THIRD WOMAN: I don't know.

19 A What's helping is the fact that the two of us got
20 to go away together, because our relationship has been pretty
21 distant for a very long time, a very long time. And it's
22 been distant for more years than it has been close. I mean,
23 it hasn't been close for very long.

24 I mean, we are just now at the beginning. We are
25 now at the start of a relationship in essence. O. K.

1 So this is really the start. O. K. We're very
2 different in a lot of ways, and we see things very differently.

3 And communication with our parents was difficult,
4 and communication with each other is sometimes just as dif-
5 ficult, because we don't seem to understand each other that
6 well, you know.

7 And so on that level, I think this is helping, be-
8 cause it's something that we chose to do together. You
9 know, it's almost like a goal that we both have, and so far
10 we're not fighting, so that's good.

11 WOMAN: By the same addition, the reason I had a
12 child -- I just figured it out as Halina was talking --
13 was -- continued to make my parents happy.

14 Q You did it for them.

15 WOMAN'S VOICE: Do you take more pictures?

16 WOMAN: Yes.

17 WOMAN'S VOICE: Was the hair O. K.?

18 VOICE: No.

19 Q Well, you know, we repeat and repeat and repeat un-
20 til we understand and get some control. And that's what
21 you're talking about. You want some control over yourself.

22 A It was done out of love.

23 WOMAN'S VOICE: Yes. Of course.

24 A But more, it was for my parents, because I know they
25 love having little kids around to manipulate. I mean, this

1 is their happiness. They-- I don't know how to explain.
2 Not "manipulate" in a bad way.

3 They can control, especially my father, a small
4 child; and they feel they can get more happiness out of them
5 and vice versa.

6 And it turned out I was grateful for having my
7 daughter. But when she was born and for the first five or
8 six years, I was scared to death, I thought I was -- I could
9 kill that child, literally. It was very scary, being some
10 little person in the house, because of all my emotional and
11 things that I'd been going through, all the burdens that I've
12 had, have had, so many, that--

13 Q Now when your sister was born, do you remember that?
14 I mean, that must have placed a lot of responsibility when
15 she was born.

16 A I remember taking care of her, that I had to do
17 that, to help out my parents.

18 So I was rather tired of taking care of people.

19 Q Right.

20 A And when my child came to the world, my own, I was
21 tired. It was a beautiful pregnancy and her being born.

22 But a child has a lot of -- I saw it has a lot of
23 needs, not just-- I saw myself, not just the clothes and not
24 just the bottle of milk and not -- it has a lot of other
25 needs.

1 Q Right.

2 A I couldn't hold her for a long time. I-- I was
3 scared to go near her, for fear that I can do something bad.
4 Always that fear. It's the fear that I experienced as a
5 kid myself.

6 Q Right. You were going to make a mistake; you may
7 do something wrong; they weren't going to be happy; they
8 were going to be upset.

9 A And the reason I got so violent inside, all this
10 anger, was-- I knew I wasn't capable of doing anything bad.
11 I couldn't hurt anyone, especially a child.

12 So there was the confusion that all that other
13 emotion wasn't me.

14 Q Well, we're just about coming to the end of the
15 tape.

16 To bring this to-- What do you think are -- I
17 mean, in your work, in your master's thesis, what are some
18 of the problems of -- what do you think are the main problems
19 of the survivors -- of the children of survivors?

20 THIRD WOMAN: One of the main problems is being
21 able to separate from your parents, to become a separate
22 person, without feeling as though you're hurting them by
23 becoming a separate person.

24 Q I understand that. They have been separated from
25 their parents.

1 THIRD WOMAN: Oh, yes, they have lost everybody;
2 they have lost everybody.

3 And our moving out was another loss. I mean, that
4 was another loss, you know. And I knew I wanted to get
5 the hell out of there. I could tell you that. But it
6 was just a matter of-- Which was a normal feeling. I
7 wanted my privacy. I wanted to just do things for my-
8 self, you know.

9 And it was very hard. It was very hard because
10 they would start to mourn, you know. And it wasn't just
11 the empty-nest syndrome kind of thing. It was-- Every
12 change, every change is so hard -- O. K. -- regardless
13 of-- You can't even put any kind of level of importance
14 on it.

15 It's just every change. If you have dinner there
16 every Friday night and you change it to Sunday night,
17 you know, it's like-- I can't even find the word to
18 express that. I mean, but it's so intense and it's so
19 major that, that when something really major happens,
20 I think that maybe if something really major happened,
21 they could maybe cope with it even better than -- be-
22 cause it's more concrete. I don't know. You know.

23 But it's just that everything is so hard, you know.
24 And I think separating is the hardest thing. You take
25 on the gloom, you take on the doom, you take on the guilt,

1 and you take on the fear, you know.

2 And to me, what has helped me, is my own journey
3 into self-awareness. I mean, I can't put it any better
4 than that. You know, it's just--

5 I mean, I find myself really interesting. I think
6 that's really what it is. And the more I understand,
7 the more tolerance I have and the more--

8 I realize now that I don't try to protect them with
9 lies any more by telling them everything is hunky-dory
10 and fine. I won't tell them if I have a cold, because
11 it's not really necessary. And if they're going to turn
12 it into a pneumonia, I'm just-- You know. I'd rather
13 not deal with that.

14 But I'm expressing my anger more to my parents,
15 and I feel that rather than trying to break away with
16 them, because I am angry and I can't express it, and
17 that just makes everybody unhappy.

18 What I am doing, is I am trying very hard now to
19 express it so that they know where it's coming from.
20 So that maybe there will be less secrets and maybe just
21 a little bit less sorrow or pain. Or maybe we'll see
22 that, here I am. I got angry, and we're still here;
23 we're still here. They didn't lose me, I didn't lose
24 them. I mean, there's a fear on that level too, you
25 know.

1 I am as afraid of losing them as they are of los-
2 ing me. You know. I don't know if they know that.
3 I think somewhere deep inside they probably do, you
4 know.

5 But that's it. It's just the separation. And that
6 encompasses your whole being. Becoming an individual,
7 separating and becoming your own person, is hard because
8 you're taking away family from them again.

9 Q You steal the family?

10 THIRD WOMAN: Yes. That separating is very important
11 because I do have my own likes and dislikes, and I just
12 enjoy being myself as well.

13 Q Yes.

14 THIRD WOMAN: There are a lot of things that I
15 knew about myself, but not I'm actually doing them. I'm
16 actually reading a book, which I could never do before,
17 because I just felt I never had the time. And just a
18 lot of other things that I'm enjoying.

19 As well as my personal life. My husband and I,
20 right now, we're separated. And to my parents, especial-
21 ly my father, it's a tragedy. And there is no understand-
22 ing there that this is the best thing that ever happened.

23 And just separating from them is very important.
24 And not to make -- not to influence them any more to
25 agree with me, which I used to do all the time. I always

1 felt I had to do it so they approved. And this way,
2 they'll feel we're all a family, so we all have the
3 same answer.

4 I don't feel I have to-- I don't do that any more.

5 I know what makes me happy and what doesn't make
6 me happy. And I don't have the energy any more to in-
7 fluence them that we should be a circle.

8 The unity can come in other ways, not verbal and
9 not eating dinner every night together. That's not
10 unity.

11 There are other things I learned that I always knew,
12 but I'm acting them out now.

13 Q What a journey.

14 Thank you very much.

15 Did I get your--

16 (Conclusion of Tape 25, Side 1.)

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1 THE TRANSCRIBER (A COURT REPORTER) HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2
3 Although "Side 2" was written on the label on the reverse
4 side of the cassette tape, I found no interview appearing on
5 the many portions which I sampled of this side.

6 I encountered difficulty designating the two women
7 being interviewed. Although the tape was entitled "Halina
8 Rosen Krantz, Ella Lebowitz," the interviewer did not preface
9 questions to them with their first or last names. There
10 were infrequent times that one of the women answering would
11 refer to the first name of the other woman being interviewed.

12 Thus, it would be in the interest of accuracy if one of
13 the three individuals present at the time of the interview:
14 the interviewer, Mrs. Rosen Krantz or Mrs. Lebowitz, could
15 examine this transcription and supply the correct designa-
16 tions.

17 I was glad to be of further assistance to the project
18 by completing this transcription.

19
20 August 12, 1986

21 John W. Schrimper

22 Cedar Rapids, Iowa
23
24
25