

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:55,350

2
00:00:55,350 --> 00:00:56,830
Yeah, what is that?

3
00:00:56,830 --> 00:00:57,360
Jets.

4
00:00:57,360 --> 00:00:58,470
Jets.

5
00:00:58,470 --> 00:01:01,297
Kennedy, Idlewild at
the time when I came.

6
00:01:01,297 --> 00:01:04,870

7
00:01:04,870 --> 00:01:05,370
I'm sorry.

8
00:01:05,370 --> 00:01:07,842

9
00:01:07,842 --> 00:01:09,300
I took it out and
then put it back.

10
00:01:09,300 --> 00:01:11,115
Yeah, I took it out too.

11
00:01:11,115 --> 00:01:11,615
Thanks.

12
00:01:11,615 --> 00:01:19,640

13
00:01:19,640 --> 00:01:24,770
Irene, I wanted to go

back and ask, do you

14
00:01:24,770 --> 00:01:28,460
recall from these
procedures in the hospital,

15
00:01:28,460 --> 00:01:30,170
do you recall them
making you sick

16
00:01:30,170 --> 00:01:36,500
or having side effects that
were troublesome for you?

17
00:01:36,500 --> 00:01:39,230

18
00:01:39,230 --> 00:01:40,790
I can't say that I do.

19
00:01:40,790 --> 00:01:44,270
I do remember how--

20
00:01:44,270 --> 00:01:46,460
It's all right.

21
00:01:46,460 --> 00:01:48,204
I do that.

22
00:01:48,204 --> 00:01:50,345
Hey, we get to do it again.

23
00:01:50,345 --> 00:01:52,541
My God.

24
00:01:52,541 --> 00:01:55,048
We have time and takes.

25
00:01:55,048 --> 00:01:56,545
It's not a problem.

26

00:01:56,545 --> 00:01:59,540

27

00:01:59,540 --> 00:02:03,260

I don't recall that any
procedures that were done on me

28

00:02:03,260 --> 00:02:05,000

made me sick.

29

00:02:05,000 --> 00:02:08,220

Not positively.

30

00:02:08,220 --> 00:02:12,140

But I do know that I was
in the hospital many times

31

00:02:12,140 --> 00:02:16,160

and I was quite ill
with high fevers.

32

00:02:16,160 --> 00:02:21,380

Again, I don't know from what.

33

00:02:21,380 --> 00:02:25,640

I remember one time
in the hospital

34

00:02:25,640 --> 00:02:31,670

when there was going to
be some kind of an action

35

00:02:31,670 --> 00:02:36,770

and that usually meant that very
many people from the hospital

36

00:02:36,770 --> 00:02:40,100

were taken straight
to the gas chamber.

37

00:02:40,100 --> 00:02:45,200

And I remember that
there was a nurse there

38

00:02:45,200 --> 00:02:51,350
who shoved me under her skirt
and just said, be very quiet.

39

00:02:51,350 --> 00:02:57,460
And I think I escaped an actual
action to the gas chambers.

40

00:02:57,460 --> 00:03:00,628

41

00:03:00,628 --> 00:03:01,295
That's my phone.

42

00:03:01,295 --> 00:03:07,686

43

00:03:07,686 --> 00:03:08,640
Sorry.

44

00:03:08,640 --> 00:03:15,144
C A T S. As opposed to K A T Z.

45

00:03:15,144 --> 00:03:17,190
Are we rolling?

46

00:03:17,190 --> 00:03:20,610
Because of that sound I'm
going to have to ask you to--

47

00:03:20,610 --> 00:03:21,810
Oh my God.

48

00:03:21,810 --> 00:03:26,250
Just tell me that portion
about how there was an action

49

00:03:26,250 --> 00:03:31,450
and that how the
nurse took you under--

50

00:03:31,450 --> 00:03:34,400

One day there was an
action in the hospital

51

00:03:34,400 --> 00:03:37,210

when most of the patients
were being sent out

52

00:03:37,210 --> 00:03:38,950

to the gas chamber.

53

00:03:38,950 --> 00:03:41,620

And I recall there
was a nurse who

54

00:03:41,620 --> 00:03:46,080

just grabbed me and shoved
me under her skirt and said,

55

00:03:46,080 --> 00:03:47,580

just be very quiet.

56

00:03:47,580 --> 00:03:50,620

And I think that's how
I was saved that day.

57

00:03:50,620 --> 00:03:53,770

58

00:03:53,770 --> 00:03:59,380

Did you have any
close encounters

59

00:03:59,380 --> 00:04:01,120

as it were like that?

60

00:04:01,120 --> 00:04:05,080

In the infirmary I had no
close encounters that I recall.

61

00:04:05,080 --> 00:04:08,800

I was just taken, examined,

done with whatever.

62
00:04:08,800 --> 00:04:10,360
Nothing seemed painful.

63
00:04:10,360 --> 00:04:12,070
I didn't spend any
length of time there.

64
00:04:12,070 --> 00:04:14,600

65
00:04:14,600 --> 00:04:16,519
And that was it pretty much.

66
00:04:16,519 --> 00:04:19,570

67
00:04:19,570 --> 00:04:24,310
So how did you--

68
00:04:24,310 --> 00:04:26,170
how did you get
out of Auschwitz?

69
00:04:26,170 --> 00:04:29,220
What happened?

70
00:04:29,220 --> 00:04:33,620
Well, sometimes towards
the end of the war

71
00:04:33,620 --> 00:04:40,790
in January of 1945 things
suddenly changed in Auschwitz.

72
00:04:40,790 --> 00:04:47,080
It was no longer operating
in the smooth fashion

73
00:04:47,080 --> 00:04:48,280
in which it had been.

74
00:04:48,280 --> 00:04:53,590
There was a lot of confusion
and people running every

75
00:04:53,590 --> 00:04:59,960
which way and people even
shouting that we're free.

76
00:04:59,960 --> 00:05:01,930
The Russians are coming.

77
00:05:01,930 --> 00:05:03,910
The Russians are coming.

78
00:05:03,910 --> 00:05:08,530
And I can't say that
I really understood.

79
00:05:08,530 --> 00:05:13,930
I did understand the joy that
something good had happened.

80
00:05:13,930 --> 00:05:18,010
However, by that time
I myself was quite ill

81
00:05:18,010 --> 00:05:20,950
and I had been just
lying on the floor.

82
00:05:20,950 --> 00:05:24,400
I could not even get
up at that point.

83
00:05:24,400 --> 00:05:28,870
And sometime before the
Russians actually arrived,

84
00:05:28,870 --> 00:05:32,860
there was a lady who lived
in the city of Auschwitz,

85

00:05:32,860 --> 00:05:36,160
a Polish lady who actually
came into the camp,

86

00:05:36,160 --> 00:05:38,890
picked me up, put
me on her shoulders

87

00:05:38,890 --> 00:05:40,180
and took me to her home.

88

00:05:40,180 --> 00:05:44,670

89

00:05:44,670 --> 00:05:45,912
And then what?

90

00:05:45,912 --> 00:05:48,510

91

00:05:48,510 --> 00:05:53,820
Well, I stayed with
her for a while.

92

00:05:53,820 --> 00:05:58,390
And I was enrolled
in Catholic school.

93

00:05:58,390 --> 00:06:06,200
And I became a Polish
little Catholic girl.

94

00:06:06,200 --> 00:06:08,780

95

00:06:08,780 --> 00:06:15,675
Until the Jewish--

96

00:06:15,675 --> 00:06:18,970

97

00:06:18,970 --> 00:06:22,480
I can't recall the name now but
there was a Jewish organization

98
00:06:22,480 --> 00:06:27,160
at that time that was
seeking to rescue children

99
00:06:27,160 --> 00:06:32,330
from non-Jewish homes.

100
00:06:32,330 --> 00:06:41,070
And I was taken from her and
put into an orphanage in France.

101
00:06:41,070 --> 00:06:47,900
How did-- I'm curious
that you were--

102
00:06:47,900 --> 00:06:50,760
that this woman chose you.

103
00:06:50,760 --> 00:06:55,395
That she came and she chose you.

104
00:06:55,395 --> 00:06:57,270
I'm sure you wouldn't
have known at the time.

105
00:06:57,270 --> 00:06:59,610
You were probably just--

106
00:06:59,610 --> 00:07:01,080
this woman came and kind of--

107
00:07:01,080 --> 00:07:04,530

108
00:07:04,530 --> 00:07:11,730
do you have any sense of why
you or how that happened or?

109

00:07:11,730 --> 00:07:12,680
Not at all.

110
00:07:12,680 --> 00:07:16,140
I don't know.

111
00:07:16,140 --> 00:07:18,967
I have no idea.

112
00:07:18,967 --> 00:07:19,800
What about you Rene?

113
00:07:19,800 --> 00:07:22,030
What happened?

114
00:07:22,030 --> 00:07:25,440
How did you come
to leave Auschwitz?

115
00:07:25,440 --> 00:07:27,100
What were the circumstances?

116
00:07:27,100 --> 00:07:32,000
Well, towards the end of our
stay in Auschwitz, my stay

117
00:07:32,000 --> 00:07:37,170
in in Auschwitz,
things changed somewhat

118
00:07:37,170 --> 00:07:41,340
in the camp atmosphere.

119
00:07:41,340 --> 00:07:45,630
There were more
air raids I recall.

120
00:07:45,630 --> 00:07:49,890
Because during air raids we all
had to go inside the barracks.

121
00:07:49,890 --> 00:07:53,310

We heard the drone
of the aircraft.

122
00:07:53,310 --> 00:07:57,270
And there was always a soldier
placed outside our barrack,

123
00:07:57,270 --> 00:07:59,700
for what reason I don't know.

124
00:07:59,700 --> 00:08:05,070
Then there was a general
sort of lax feeling we got,

125
00:08:05,070 --> 00:08:06,540
I got from the soldiers.

126
00:08:06,540 --> 00:08:12,050
They weren't always around
there in as many numbers.

127
00:08:12,050 --> 00:08:21,630
And then all of a sudden at one
point we were asked to line up

128
00:08:21,630 --> 00:08:24,150
or to congregate.

129
00:08:24,150 --> 00:08:27,660
And I think they were going to
load us, that's my thoughts,

130
00:08:27,660 --> 00:08:30,970
they were going to
load us onto a truck.

131
00:08:30,970 --> 00:08:33,989
And we were going to be
taken to gas chambers.

132
00:08:33,989 --> 00:08:37,929

133

00:08:37,929 --> 00:08:41,620

I remember the feeling,
because it was probably

134

00:08:41,620 --> 00:08:46,660

the first time I really felt
fear, an instinctive fear,

135

00:08:46,660 --> 00:08:50,150

like an animal knows
when it's going to die.

136

00:08:50,150 --> 00:08:55,570

There's something about this
action that was terrified me.

137

00:08:55,570 --> 00:08:57,460

And we were lined up.

138

00:08:57,460 --> 00:09:00,910

We were getting-- started
to load the truck,

139

00:09:00,910 --> 00:09:06,810

and the gates of our
camp, our area, opened up.

140

00:09:06,810 --> 00:09:10,420

And this green
convertible pulled

141

00:09:10,420 --> 00:09:15,620

in with high ranking
officers I imagine.

142

00:09:15,620 --> 00:09:19,740

I do recall seeing the
boots more than the hats.

143

00:09:19,740 --> 00:09:21,610

But whoever it was--

144

00:09:21,610 --> 00:09:23,430
and I think I heard
later that might

145
00:09:23,430 --> 00:09:26,190
have been Mengele stopped this
whole thing from happening.

146
00:09:26,190 --> 00:09:29,220

147
00:09:29,220 --> 00:09:38,350
It was at the very end when we
were finally released or taken

148
00:09:38,350 --> 00:09:42,370
out of the camp we were still
marched out by German soldiers

149
00:09:42,370 --> 00:09:43,400
through the night.

150
00:09:43,400 --> 00:09:46,300
It was a very cold night
and we had to keep marching.

151
00:09:46,300 --> 00:09:49,420
Anybody that stopped or
fell out of line was shot

152
00:09:49,420 --> 00:09:50,890
and that was it.

153
00:09:50,890 --> 00:09:54,040
We just kept going.

154
00:09:54,040 --> 00:09:57,100
That was my--

155
00:09:57,100 --> 00:09:59,950
I should mention that all
of a sudden, while we were

156

00:09:59,950 --> 00:10:04,720
on the march, there was
gunfire in the back, artillery,

157

00:10:04,720 --> 00:10:06,220
it was rumbling in the back.

158

00:10:06,220 --> 00:10:09,850
All of a sudden the Germans,
guards all around, disappeared.

159

00:10:09,850 --> 00:10:11,170
They were gone.

160

00:10:11,170 --> 00:10:13,230
They're just not there.

161

00:10:13,230 --> 00:10:16,920
And a very short time later,
Russians all around us

162

00:10:16,920 --> 00:10:19,110
on horses.

163

00:10:19,110 --> 00:10:20,430
Russian.

164

00:10:20,430 --> 00:10:23,020
Loud.

165

00:10:23,020 --> 00:10:26,590
And they marched us
into an area where

166

00:10:26,590 --> 00:10:29,400
there were some food stores.

167

00:10:29,400 --> 00:10:33,100
And it was pretty chaotic.

168

00:10:33,100 --> 00:10:35,710

What happened when you saw food?

169

00:10:35,710 --> 00:10:37,540

Well, everybody ran for it.

170

00:10:37,540 --> 00:10:38,770

I didn't know what I saw.

171

00:10:38,770 --> 00:10:42,220

I just knew that this
was good stuff to get.

172

00:10:42,220 --> 00:10:47,860

And I was so little
I got pushed aside.

173

00:10:47,860 --> 00:10:50,910

And when I finally got
there all I got is a can.

174

00:10:50,910 --> 00:10:53,050

A gold colored can.

175

00:10:53,050 --> 00:10:54,310

It looked huge to me.

176

00:10:54,310 --> 00:10:55,900

I don't know how
big it really was.

177

00:10:55,900 --> 00:10:58,030

When we opened it,
it was sauerkraut.

178

00:10:58,030 --> 00:11:02,410

I remember that very distinctly.

179

00:11:02,410 --> 00:11:05,140

But I think a lot of people
got themselves very ill

180

00:11:05,140 --> 00:11:08,410

and died as a result
of overeating,

181
00:11:08,410 --> 00:11:12,250
eating on such empty stomachs.

182
00:11:12,250 --> 00:11:14,080
Did you eat the sauerkraut?

183
00:11:14,080 --> 00:11:14,980
I just smelled it.

184
00:11:14,980 --> 00:11:16,180
I wasn't into it.

185
00:11:16,180 --> 00:11:18,326
No.

186
00:11:18,326 --> 00:11:19,690
Good thing.

187
00:11:19,690 --> 00:11:20,860
Yeah, probably.

188
00:11:20,860 --> 00:11:25,570
I can't imagine sauerkraut
of of all things.

189
00:11:25,570 --> 00:11:28,910
And then what happened to you?

190
00:11:28,910 --> 00:11:33,700
I was taken to a hospital first.

191
00:11:33,700 --> 00:11:36,280
Because apparently
I had something

192
00:11:36,280 --> 00:11:39,260
not exactly right with me.

193

00:11:39,260 --> 00:11:44,970
And then to an orphanage
in Czechoslovakia.

194
00:11:44,970 --> 00:11:46,530
In a town called Kosice.

195
00:11:46,530 --> 00:11:51,340

196
00:11:51,340 --> 00:11:53,690
That's sort of the end of.

197
00:11:53,690 --> 00:11:58,000
But as we were sitting here
and talking, I was wondering.

198
00:11:58,000 --> 00:11:59,980
We didn't mention
at all, and I don't

199
00:11:59,980 --> 00:12:04,150
recall when this really happened
when our numbers were put on.

200
00:12:04,150 --> 00:12:07,210
They were put on in
Auschwitz I'm pretty sure.

201
00:12:07,210 --> 00:12:11,840
But I don't recall at what
point this happened at all.

202
00:12:11,840 --> 00:12:13,900
I do remember the pricks.

203
00:12:13,900 --> 00:12:17,710
I remember all that,
but I don't recall when.

204
00:12:17,710 --> 00:12:20,870
It's like totally--

205

00:12:20,870 --> 00:12:21,980

Irene, do you remember?

206

00:12:21,980 --> 00:12:23,680

Do you recall when?

207

00:12:23,680 --> 00:12:26,130

I can't say actually.

208

00:12:26,130 --> 00:12:29,045

But I think it was

when we first arrived.

209

00:12:29,045 --> 00:12:34,810

210

00:12:34,810 --> 00:12:36,130

I believe Irene.

211

00:12:36,130 --> 00:12:38,680

She says that we got the

numbers when we first arrived.

212

00:12:38,680 --> 00:12:43,050

213

00:12:43,050 --> 00:12:45,480

But you ended up

in Israel, correct?

214

00:12:45,480 --> 00:12:46,830

No.

215

00:12:46,830 --> 00:12:48,280

I did not end up in Israel.

216

00:12:48,280 --> 00:12:51,120

I was in Czechoslovakia.

217

00:12:51,120 --> 00:12:54,390

And I was taken out

of the orphanage

218
00:12:54,390 --> 00:12:59,250
by a family and
then another family.

219
00:12:59,250 --> 00:13:05,350
I went to school there till I
left Czechoslovakia in 1949.

220
00:13:05,350 --> 00:13:08,440
So I went to public
school there and.

221
00:13:08,440 --> 00:13:10,810
Now, did you, again,
you were still-- you

222
00:13:10,810 --> 00:13:14,230
had seen each other only once.

223
00:13:14,230 --> 00:13:15,940
What was your feeling?

224
00:13:15,940 --> 00:13:17,740
And I'm going to ask
you this as well.

225
00:13:17,740 --> 00:13:20,810
What was your feeling about--

226
00:13:20,810 --> 00:13:23,080
Well let me ask you this way.

227
00:13:23,080 --> 00:13:25,210
Did you think about your sister?

228
00:13:25,210 --> 00:13:30,300
Were you-- what were your
thoughts about your sister?

229
00:13:30,300 --> 00:13:35,050

She was constantly-- my
reaction to any adversity,

230
00:13:35,050 --> 00:13:36,868
any bad things that
happened I said

231
00:13:36,868 --> 00:13:39,160
I have to live through this,
I have to go through this,

232
00:13:39,160 --> 00:13:40,030
I have to do it.

233
00:13:40,030 --> 00:13:42,370
It's for Irene.

234
00:13:42,370 --> 00:13:45,250
So she was constantly--
and I knew that she--

235
00:13:45,250 --> 00:13:49,240
I believed and I knew
that she was alive.

236
00:13:49,240 --> 00:13:52,600
Otherwise I couldn't
have gone on with this.

237
00:13:52,600 --> 00:13:55,240
But that's-- always.

238
00:13:55,240 --> 00:14:00,587
And even as years passed and you
still didn't know where she was

239
00:14:00,587 --> 00:14:01,420
you still had faith?

240
00:14:01,420 --> 00:14:02,530
Absolutely.

241

00:14:02,530 --> 00:14:05,620
I had faith all the
way through until we

242
00:14:05,620 --> 00:14:12,990
made first contact which
was I think by mail in 1948.

243
00:14:12,990 --> 00:14:14,740
Yeah.

244
00:14:14,740 --> 00:14:17,320
Could you say that again
and finish the sentence

245
00:14:17,320 --> 00:14:19,060
that you had faith that--

246
00:14:19,060 --> 00:14:22,960
Yeah, I always had faith
and knew that she was alive

247
00:14:22,960 --> 00:14:25,150
even though we had no contact.

248
00:14:25,150 --> 00:14:31,330
And we did have contact at first
in 1948 I think through mail.

249
00:14:31,330 --> 00:14:34,550
But I always knew
that she was there.

250
00:14:34,550 --> 00:14:39,070
And was she was
always my support.

251
00:14:39,070 --> 00:14:41,190
What about you Irene?

252
00:14:41,190 --> 00:14:42,472
Did you have similar feelings?

253

00:14:42,472 --> 00:14:43,680

Were your feelings different?

254

00:14:43,680 --> 00:14:47,367

What did you feel
about your brother?

255

00:14:47,367 --> 00:14:49,450

Because you were going
through all this post-war--

256

00:14:49,450 --> 00:14:53,210

257

00:14:53,210 --> 00:14:57,560

I knew that he was out
there and that he was alive.

258

00:14:57,560 --> 00:15:01,510

I did not have any idea where.

259

00:15:01,510 --> 00:15:05,860

But I also, in my heart,
I knew that someday we

260

00:15:05,860 --> 00:15:07,150

would be together.

261

00:15:07,150 --> 00:15:10,750

I didn't know quite how.

262

00:15:10,750 --> 00:15:17,550

But I also-- the need to
make sure that he was OK

263

00:15:17,550 --> 00:15:20,670

got me through a
lot of things too.

264

00:15:20,670 --> 00:15:25,680

Did you ever despair that
maybe he wasn't or was it

265
00:15:25,680 --> 00:15:29,358
solid, positive faith that
you knew he was out there?

266
00:15:29,358 --> 00:15:30,150
Did you ever just--

267
00:15:30,150 --> 00:15:34,940
Totally solid faith
that he was out there.

268
00:15:34,940 --> 00:15:38,540
I have to concur with
Irene that constant--

269
00:15:38,540 --> 00:15:42,800
constantly new always never a
doubt that this was going to be

270
00:15:42,800 --> 00:15:45,800
OK because she was out
there and we were going to--

271
00:15:45,800 --> 00:15:49,700
I wasn't quite sure about
being reunited or when I guess

272
00:15:49,700 --> 00:15:50,750
was the big question.

273
00:15:50,750 --> 00:15:52,600
But I always knew she was there.

274
00:15:52,600 --> 00:15:57,590

275
00:15:57,590 --> 00:16:00,960
Irene, can you tell me about how
you came to be in this country?

276
00:16:00,960 --> 00:16:05,990

277

00:16:05,990 --> 00:16:11,150
When I was in the orphanage
in Fublaines which

278

00:16:11,150 --> 00:16:17,690
small town outside
of Paris, I was

279

00:16:17,690 --> 00:16:23,390
chosen by Mr Herbert
Tenzer who at that time

280

00:16:23,390 --> 00:16:31,040
headed an organization
called Rescue Children whose

281

00:16:31,040 --> 00:16:35,210
main purpose was to help
children and reunite children

282

00:16:35,210 --> 00:16:42,650
with parents or possibly find
them homes here in the States

283

00:16:42,650 --> 00:16:48,130
or bring them to Israel
just to help war orphans.

284

00:16:48,130 --> 00:16:52,360
And he selected me to
come here to represent

285

00:16:52,360 --> 00:16:57,130
the war orphans to raise
money for this endeavor.

286

00:16:57,130 --> 00:17:02,070
And that's how I
came to America.

287

00:17:02,070 --> 00:17:06,250

I think he chose me not
because I was anything special.

288
00:17:06,250 --> 00:17:08,670
I think I just had
very long hair.

289
00:17:08,670 --> 00:17:11,099
I think he liked
my long curly hair.

290
00:17:11,099 --> 00:17:15,210

291
00:17:15,210 --> 00:17:18,990
And then how did you come
to be with Slotkin's?

292
00:17:18,990 --> 00:17:23,640
Well, for a while when
Mr Tenzer first chose me

293
00:17:23,640 --> 00:17:27,480
he promised me that I could go
back because I didn't really

294
00:17:27,480 --> 00:17:29,010
want to come to America.

295
00:17:29,010 --> 00:17:32,220
I had a very dear
friend in the orphanage

296
00:17:32,220 --> 00:17:37,070
and she was going to Israel
and I wanted to go with her.

297
00:17:37,070 --> 00:17:40,950
However, what you don't
tell little children

298
00:17:40,950 --> 00:17:44,980
is you promise them anything

and then you do what you want.

299

00:17:44,980 --> 00:17:47,640

And so once he got
me here to the States

300

00:17:47,640 --> 00:17:52,090

he never ever intended
to send me back.

301

00:17:52,090 --> 00:17:59,570

And he did seek out some people
who were willing to adopt.

302

00:17:59,570 --> 00:18:02,990

And he found this family,
the Slotkin's and that's

303

00:18:02,990 --> 00:18:07,280

how I stayed here.

304

00:18:07,280 --> 00:18:10,702

And that's how Rene
came, because--

305

00:18:10,702 --> 00:18:11,660

OK, hold on one second.

306

00:18:11,660 --> 00:18:13,646

How much time do we have?

307

00:18:13,646 --> 00:18:15,000

About 20.

308

00:18:15,000 --> 00:18:17,710

we have 15.

309

00:18:17,710 --> 00:18:18,930

Cut for a second.

310

00:18:18,930 --> 00:18:22,340

311
00:18:22,340 --> 00:18:24,200
But are we rolling?

312
00:18:24,200 --> 00:18:27,170

313
00:18:27,170 --> 00:18:32,160
If you can tell me
how you found him.

314
00:18:32,160 --> 00:18:39,920

315
00:18:39,920 --> 00:18:44,940
The way I found Rene is a
very long story in itself.

316
00:18:44,940 --> 00:18:51,150
But it starts with a photo
shoot for Life magazine

317
00:18:51,150 --> 00:18:55,170
when I and another
boy had been selected

318
00:18:55,170 --> 00:19:01,050
to come here to raise funds
for the European War Orphans.

319
00:19:01,050 --> 00:19:07,230
And at that time Dr.
Kalina, the doctor

320
00:19:07,230 --> 00:19:12,400
that Rene had been living
with in Czechoslovakia,

321
00:19:12,400 --> 00:19:18,060
this was already in 1948--

322
00:19:18,060 --> 00:19:22,920

Actually, the Life
magazine was November 1947.

323
00:19:22,920 --> 00:19:25,110
But this Dr. Kalina
had been forced

324
00:19:25,110 --> 00:19:30,450
to flee Czechoslovakia because
the communists were overtaking

325
00:19:30,450 --> 00:19:31,140
it.

326
00:19:31,140 --> 00:19:35,760
It was going behind the Iron
Curtain and he fled to Israel.

327
00:19:35,760 --> 00:19:40,890
And one day he was I guess
in a stationery store

328
00:19:40,890 --> 00:19:44,340
and he picked up Life
magazine and he opened

329
00:19:44,340 --> 00:19:49,110
to the page with me on it and
he recognized the name Guttman

330
00:19:49,110 --> 00:19:54,120
and he realized right then that
I must be Rene's twin sister.

331
00:19:54,120 --> 00:19:56,970
And that's how we
first made contact.

332
00:19:56,970 --> 00:20:00,100

333
00:20:00,100 --> 00:20:02,830
Could you tell me

that story again,

334

00:20:02,830 --> 00:20:06,820

and this time give me
a little prologue that

335

00:20:06,820 --> 00:20:14,620

explains that you and Rene
had been separated because

336

00:20:14,620 --> 00:20:21,140

of the war and then tell the
story about how the photo

337

00:20:21,140 --> 00:20:24,050

shoot got you back together?

338

00:20:24,050 --> 00:20:26,570

OK.

339

00:20:26,570 --> 00:20:28,940

I'm not a professional actress.

340

00:20:28,940 --> 00:20:31,190

Does this mean I
get a bigger fee?

341

00:20:31,190 --> 00:20:32,120

Yeah.

342

00:20:32,120 --> 00:20:34,310

Just have her tell the truth.

343

00:20:34,310 --> 00:20:35,390

Not acting.

344

00:20:35,390 --> 00:20:36,500

Just tell like it is.

345

00:20:36,500 --> 00:20:37,640

Tell it like life is.

346

00:20:37,640 --> 00:20:40,640

347

00:20:40,640 --> 00:20:48,440

Well, Rene and I, from the time we were separated in Auschwitz,

348

00:20:48,440 --> 00:20:53,090

even when the war was over we continued our separate ways.

349

00:20:53,090 --> 00:20:58,610

Rene went to Czechoslovakia and I went to Poland for a while

350

00:20:58,610 --> 00:21:03,860

and then to France where I was selected

351

00:21:03,860 --> 00:21:06,710

to represent the War Orphans of Europe

352

00:21:06,710 --> 00:21:09,680

and I was brought here to America

353

00:21:09,680 --> 00:21:15,220

by an organization called Rescue Children.

354

00:21:15,220 --> 00:21:21,070

When I got to America it was a very big story

355

00:21:21,070 --> 00:21:24,340

because we also went to see President Truman

356

00:21:24,340 --> 00:21:31,690

and Life magazine did a three page spread on our coming here.

357

00:21:31,690 --> 00:21:36,760

And it was Life
magazine that eventually

358

00:21:36,760 --> 00:21:45,350

would prove to be the bond,
the little miracle that brought

359

00:21:45,350 --> 00:21:47,920

Rene and I together again.

360

00:21:47,920 --> 00:21:52,000

Because at that
time, Life magazine

361

00:21:52,000 --> 00:21:57,040

was done in November
1947 and by this time

362

00:21:57,040 --> 00:22:01,690

Dr. Kalina, the man that
Rene was staying with,

363

00:22:01,690 --> 00:22:04,510

had to flee Czechoslovakia
because it was

364

00:22:04,510 --> 00:22:07,210

going behind the Iron Curtain.

365

00:22:07,210 --> 00:22:12,340

He fled to Israel,
and by some sheer luck

366

00:22:12,340 --> 00:22:16,930

he picked up Life
magazine in 1948

367

00:22:16,930 --> 00:22:21,080

and he saw the picture
of me, saw the name,

368

00:22:21,080 --> 00:22:24,580
and made the connection that
I must be Rene's twin sister.

369
00:22:24,580 --> 00:22:27,520
And that started
the ball rolling

370
00:22:27,520 --> 00:22:31,750
to getting us reunited which
didn't happen for another two

371
00:22:31,750 --> 00:22:32,890
years.

372
00:22:32,890 --> 00:22:35,790
But we made contact.

373
00:22:35,790 --> 00:22:37,150
Great.

374
00:22:37,150 --> 00:22:37,650
Great.

375
00:22:37,650 --> 00:22:50,350

376
00:22:50,350 --> 00:22:52,230
You can work on your question.

377
00:22:52,230 --> 00:23:06,700

378
00:23:06,700 --> 00:23:10,960
This is a hard question to
ask, let alone answer I guess.

379
00:23:10,960 --> 00:23:16,660
But what effect did the
experience of the war

380
00:23:16,660 --> 00:23:18,540

have when you were
growing up in America?

381
00:23:18,540 --> 00:23:30,760

382
00:23:30,760 --> 00:23:34,120
How the war affected my
growing up in America

383
00:23:34,120 --> 00:23:37,900
is a huge, huge question.

384
00:23:37,900 --> 00:23:39,820
I wonder if we could
be a little bit more

385
00:23:39,820 --> 00:23:42,520
specific about some of it.

386
00:23:42,520 --> 00:23:45,520
Well I mean, did you--

387
00:23:45,520 --> 00:23:48,820
I guess I've always wondered,
how do you reconcile

388
00:23:48,820 --> 00:23:51,810
what you went through?

389
00:23:51,810 --> 00:23:57,600
And then finally getting
here and growing up

390
00:23:57,600 --> 00:24:02,130
at a quote unquote fairly
normal time in America?

391
00:24:02,130 --> 00:24:04,760

392
00:24:04,760 --> 00:24:08,900

How did you incorporate one
experience with the other?

393
00:24:08,900 --> 00:24:12,140

394
00:24:12,140 --> 00:24:16,160
The only way I can
answer it is, know how

395
00:24:16,160 --> 00:24:17,840
the war affected my whole life.

396
00:24:17,840 --> 00:24:21,410

397
00:24:21,410 --> 00:24:25,460
As a very young child in
Auschwitz and Theresienstadt,

398
00:24:25,460 --> 00:24:28,730
as we discussed before,
I didn't realize

399
00:24:28,730 --> 00:24:32,750
the horror of the whole
thing and the emotional toll

400
00:24:32,750 --> 00:24:35,900
it would have taken on me
had I not been a child.

401
00:24:35,900 --> 00:24:38,510
So everything was
just going along

402
00:24:38,510 --> 00:24:40,940
and I didn't know any different.

403
00:24:40,940 --> 00:24:42,500
I didn't know.

404

00:24:42,500 --> 00:24:44,780
I knew that I didn't have
a mother and a father,

405
00:24:44,780 --> 00:24:49,280
but what it really meant I
really couldn't put it in.

406
00:24:49,280 --> 00:24:52,850
I know this, that the
Slotkin family, Meyer

407
00:24:52,850 --> 00:24:57,320
and Dinah Slotkin, did
everything they possibly could.

408
00:24:57,320 --> 00:24:59,880
And I saw all other parents
doing for their kids

409
00:24:59,880 --> 00:25:02,170
so I felt I was loved.

410
00:25:02,170 --> 00:25:05,140
I was part of their
family and I had

411
00:25:05,140 --> 00:25:09,180
to grow up just like
everybody else, which I did.

412
00:25:09,180 --> 00:25:12,160
I'm not sure that I
did it in the same way

413
00:25:12,160 --> 00:25:14,380
that other kids do it,
but I don't think any two

414
00:25:14,380 --> 00:25:17,620
kids grow up the same way.

415
00:25:17,620 --> 00:25:21,010

What the war did was I
knew in the back of my mind

416
00:25:21,010 --> 00:25:24,550
that I was an orphan, and
I knew that they were not

417
00:25:24,550 --> 00:25:29,468
my real parents, real
meaning biological parents,

418
00:25:29,468 --> 00:25:31,760
even though everything else
they seemed to be covering.

419
00:25:31,760 --> 00:25:34,920

420
00:25:34,920 --> 00:25:37,610
This led me to
question sometimes,

421
00:25:37,610 --> 00:25:43,310
do I owe them less or more than
the norm, whatever the norm is?

422
00:25:43,310 --> 00:25:45,620
And I could never really
answer that question.

423
00:25:45,620 --> 00:25:47,340
There's just no way of doing it.

424
00:25:47,340 --> 00:25:51,650
All I know is that they
deserve a huge amount of credit

425
00:25:51,650 --> 00:25:55,700
for adopting us, especially
me when they didn't even

426
00:25:55,700 --> 00:25:58,670
see me or know me and

they spared nothing to get

427

00:25:58,670 --> 00:26:02,840
me reunited with their Irene.

428

00:26:02,840 --> 00:26:04,790
Which was their
Irene at that point.

429

00:26:04,790 --> 00:26:10,020
And I was 12 years old coming
from questionable background

430

00:26:10,020 --> 00:26:11,580
for sure.

431

00:26:11,580 --> 00:26:12,660
But they spared nothing.

432

00:26:12,660 --> 00:26:14,940
And they loved me 100%.

433

00:26:14,940 --> 00:26:20,880
They also were very active in
keeping the war experience away

434

00:26:20,880 --> 00:26:21,570
from us.

435

00:26:21,570 --> 00:26:23,940
All the years, all
our teenage years

436

00:26:23,940 --> 00:26:27,300
they really put up a real fence.

437

00:26:27,300 --> 00:26:29,790
So any inquiries that
were made about the war,

438

00:26:29,790 --> 00:26:34,230
about us or people wanted

to make directly to us,

439
00:26:34,230 --> 00:26:35,280
they wouldn't allow it.

440
00:26:35,280 --> 00:26:38,520
They just felt that they
had to protect us from this.

441
00:26:38,520 --> 00:26:43,380
So in that sense, we were
like in the dark about--

442
00:26:43,380 --> 00:26:47,140
it wasn't talked about.

443
00:26:47,140 --> 00:26:52,800
Irene, what was it like when
you finally got together

444
00:26:52,800 --> 00:26:54,071
after all those years?

445
00:26:54,071 --> 00:26:57,160

446
00:26:57,160 --> 00:27:01,990
It was, after finally seeing
Rene for the first time

447
00:27:01,990 --> 00:27:08,050
after all those years, in some
ways it was anticlimactic.

448
00:27:08,050 --> 00:27:11,710
Because instead of running
into each other's arms,

449
00:27:11,710 --> 00:27:15,160
which with the music
playing and all that,

450

00:27:15,160 --> 00:27:17,140
we just kind of
looked at each other

451
00:27:17,140 --> 00:27:19,130
and we just stared
at each other.

452
00:27:19,130 --> 00:27:22,970
We didn't even know what
to say to each other.

453
00:27:22,970 --> 00:27:25,480
But I think that we--

454
00:27:25,480 --> 00:27:31,750
inside we knew we had
finally made it full circle

455
00:27:31,750 --> 00:27:35,800
and that we were now
together forever.

456
00:27:35,800 --> 00:27:42,760
But it wasn't all the hoopla
that you would imagine.

457
00:27:42,760 --> 00:27:44,830
Absolutely, the same thing.

458
00:27:44,830 --> 00:27:49,690
We were reunited at
a great distance.

459
00:27:49,690 --> 00:27:52,210
What I recall is the sidewalk
in front of our house.

460
00:27:52,210 --> 00:27:55,430
I think that's where you came
out or something like that.

461
00:27:55,430 --> 00:27:57,670

And we were like just
looking at each other.

462
00:27:57,670 --> 00:27:59,500
No words were spoken.

463
00:27:59,500 --> 00:28:01,420
No words were spoken.

464
00:28:01,420 --> 00:28:05,920
And I have to add,
at this point,

465
00:28:05,920 --> 00:28:09,730
in terms of words spoken
about our experiences.

466
00:28:09,730 --> 00:28:11,620
We never talked about
it even though we

467
00:28:11,620 --> 00:28:14,730
lived in that same house.

468
00:28:14,730 --> 00:28:18,030
We never, ever talked about it.

469
00:28:18,030 --> 00:28:20,280
And I'm not just talking
about a few years.

470
00:28:20,280 --> 00:28:22,200
A few decades.

471
00:28:22,200 --> 00:28:24,520
We have never talked about it.

472
00:28:24,520 --> 00:28:28,200

473
00:28:28,200 --> 00:28:32,570
Was it, over time

did you sort of--

474

00:28:32,570 --> 00:28:35,750

I assume, because it's happening now, but did it take very long,

475

00:28:35,750 --> 00:28:38,520

do you think, for you to re--

476

00:28:38,520 --> 00:28:43,060

you say your bond in a way got you through these experiences.

477

00:28:43,060 --> 00:28:49,540

Did it take long for you to really re-establish the bond?

478

00:28:49,540 --> 00:28:51,880

I think it did.

479

00:28:51,880 --> 00:28:55,960

I think there was so much going on in the beginning,

480

00:28:55,960 --> 00:28:57,790

for both of us in different ways.

481

00:28:57,790 --> 00:29:02,570

Rene having to make a tremendous adjustment to American life.

482

00:29:02,570 --> 00:29:04,750

I had already been here for two years,

483

00:29:04,750 --> 00:29:07,670

so I was already speaking a good English.

484

00:29:07,670 --> 00:29:08,590

I was a good student.

485

00:29:08,590 --> 00:29:12,260

486

00:29:12,260 --> 00:29:17,890

And Rene had a tough act
to follow because parents

487

00:29:17,890 --> 00:29:21,040

can't help comparing children.

488

00:29:21,040 --> 00:29:24,760

And Rene was just not as
studious as me which was fine.

489

00:29:24,760 --> 00:29:30,060

But it made it
very tough for me.

490

00:29:30,060 --> 00:29:37,420

When you first asked us how
the war experience affected

491

00:29:37,420 --> 00:29:41,130

our life here I really didn't
get a chance to say anything.

492

00:29:41,130 --> 00:29:44,400

But I'm going to jump in now.

493

00:29:44,400 --> 00:29:46,290

Let me just take this.

494

00:29:46,290 --> 00:29:49,210

And we're going to change tape.

495

00:29:49,210 --> 00:31:38,000