

To what extent did you exchange information about your experiences, and about his experiences?

We never talk about it. Once I ask my father about my mother. Actually, what I knew about my mother is from other member of family which knew about that, but my father never wanted to talk about it.

And when I asked him he said to me, don't talk about it. We are alive. You need to be happy. Just live your life and don't talk-- don't think, even, about what happened to us. It's over.

So we didn't talk about it at all. Even my grandmother didn't want to talk about it. She lost her three children, and she didn't talk about it.

One of my cousins survived. She's in Israel right now. She was beautiful-- 18 years old girl, blue eyes, blonde hair. And she was in Lvov, and she-- somehow, she managed to get the papers. So her family bought papers for her, and she went to German and she volunteered to go and work in Germany as a Polish worker. And so she survived in Germany working as a Pole in Germany for Germans.

Yes, Kira.

What finally encouraged you to open up and start talking about your experiences, since your father and your family never wanted to talk about it?

Pictures. I decided to-- well, I have a friend, and she was-- she's very active in hidden children. And she was draining me about that. So I said, I don't want to talk about it. I'm happy, and I work, and I'm lucky, and I have wonderful kids, and I have good husband.

You must be your father's daughter.

Yeah. I don't want to talk about it. So she said, no, no, no. Well, they are looking for some kind of document. It's important.

So I went to Heritage Museum in New York because at that time they were looking for documents. But they look at this picture and well, they, are not really good pictures. So--

Scratched faces [LAUGHS]

They selected some, and-- you know, like five of them. And that was it. So she said to me, why don't you call Holocaust museum in Washington? Because I felt that my kids are not going to take care of those pictures. And really, my grandchildren definitely not.

So I decided-- so I called Teresa. She wanted them. And then she asked me to write everything. So when I started to write, then it hit me. And I suddenly started to think about it.

And I just went back, and back, and back, and took me a long time to digest it. And now I am again happy go lucky. I just digested it.

I think I feel very fortunate. I am not really-- I always feel I have no balance, you know? I was never tortured. I was alone. I was scared.

You know, Lidia, when I think about when you say you were just like all the other children in the orphanage, and I think the big difference between you and the other children in the orphanage is that you were scared and they were not. They were as hungry as you, and as dirty as you, and as lonely as you, but you were scared.

I think that it was more into it. I don't like to lie, and I was lying. I couldn't make any friendship because I couldn't be

really open. So I just kept for myself.

When I left orphanage, I really didn't have any girl to write to because I didn't talk about myself. I was lying. Even my name was lie. And maybe that was the reason why I didn't go back. I didn't kept contact with my nuns. Because immediately, some of them didn't know, and I was lying.

On this not, thank you so much, Lidia.

[APPLAUSE]