

MUTTI
He decided we should make a false partition at one end of the bathroom and tile it with a little trapdoor.

YOUNG EVA
A hiding place WITHIN our hiding place.

MUTTI
They work very late one Sunday night until they finish it...

YOUNG EVA
They leave and we go to bed...

EVA
And in the night we heard suddenly lorries outside and shouting and knocking on the doors.

(The sound of loud knocking on doors.)

YOUNG EVA
And my mother and me—we quickly jump into our new hiding place, we put the trapdoor on—

EVA
And my mother sat on the toilet and I sat on the floor next to her—*and waited.*
And a few minutes later we heard the Germans with their heavy boots clomping up the stairs and my heart was beating so loud that I was sure

EVA ON VIDEO
*MUTTI simultaneous:
“And we wait.”
SOUND: Boots on stairs

they would hear it through the partition.

YOUNG EVA
We hear them opening the bathroom door.

MUTTI
We hear them come in.

YOUNG EVA
We hear them looking.

MUTTI
We hear them searching.

YOUNG EVA
We hear them talking.

MUTTI
We hear one of them say, “Nobody’s here.”

YOUNG EVA
They’re walking away.

MUTTI
Out of the room...

YOUNG EVA
Down the stairs...

MUTTI
Out of the house.

SOUND: Opening door

SOUND: Boots, near

SOUND: Boots walking around room

SOUND: German voices

SOUND: Boots walking away

SOUND: Boots

SOUND: Boots down the steps

YOUNG EVA

The door slams.

MUTTI

They're gone.

EVA

And this is something when I talk to you about it now I feel it as if it's still happening.

SOUND: door slams downstairs

EVA ON VIDEO

MUTTI

We're safe.

YOUNG EVA

But I can't sleep for the rest of the night. The sun comes up. And it all begins again.

(There is the sound of a ticking clock.)

SOUND: Ticking clock

YOUNG EVA

In hiding, the minutes turn into days turn into weeks turn into months... I'd give anything to be able to walk in the fresh air again, to feel the sunshine, to be free.

(YOUNG EVA and MUTTI sit at a table in silence. The ticking clock persists. MUTTI reads. YOUNG EVA tries to read. YOUNG EVA fidgets. MUTTI looks up. They look at each other. YOUNG EVA looks as though she may scream or run from the room. MUTTI puts a finger to her lips as if to say "Shhh!") YOUNG EVA looks at her watch. They both go back to reading their books. The clock ticks louder. YOUNG EVA talks to the audience.)

YOUNG EVA

My mother and I have to sit at this kitchen table all day and whisper... we can't even move around—

MUTTI

Shhhh! *(Whispering, tense.)* The neighbors might hear you. No one can know that we're here.

YOUNG EVA *(whispering loudly)*

But I AM here—YOU'RE here! Mutti—sometimes I lie in bed at night and kick my sheets because I am so frustrated!

MUTTI

(touching YOUNG EVA's face, trying to calm her)
Oh, Evi...

YOUNG EVA

I'm 14 years old, Mutti. I want *a normal life!

MUTTI *(overlapping)*

*Shhhh! It's almost three o'clock. Mrs. Klompe will be home soon and then we can move around. Then we can talk.

YOUNG EVA

Move around? Talk?? I want to go ice skating on the canals, drink hot cocoa... I want to go back to school. I want to see my friends. I want us to be a family again. *(Beat.)* I miss Pappy. I miss Heinz.

(MUTTI brushes hair out of YOUNG EVA's eyes and embraces her.)

EVA

If you spent two years with one person day and night, of course you have a very, very close relationship.

So I was really my mother's everything and she was everything to me.

ED

I had been to see friends who lived relatively far away, I was late coming home—

SOUND: Clock out**EVA ON VIDEO****ED ON VIDEO****SOUND: Marching, truck engines**

YOUNG ED

It's ten minutes past eight, ten minutes past curfew—I turn a corner within a block of my grandparents' home—and there they are: German soldiers. They don't even ask for identification—they don't have to...I'm wearing the yellow star.

ED

They didn't say much, they just...one of them took me by my arm and told me to get on the truck.

ED ON VIDEO**SOUND: Moving truck hum**

YOUNG ED

I'm on this truck for about a half-hour. There's a young German guard who's holding a rifle and staring straight ahead. I know that if I'm going to escape—this is it. So I

push him off balance and I jump off the truck and into the road. For one second I think I'm safe and then I look up and I see headlights coming toward me. I roll away just in time to get away from the wheels from the next truck. I get up and start running. *(SOUND: Amplified breathing.)* Running and running. I don't look back. I hide in a doorway of an apartment building where I know people. But I don't ring their bell. I just stay here for an hour or so. *(In the dark, he whistles softly from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.)* Finally, when it's really dark, I go home.

SOUND: Truck passing**SOUND: Amplified sound of Ed breathing hard, running away**

(YOUNG ED steps out of the doorway, walks cautiously down the dark, empty street. Then he stops, rips the yellow star from his coat. Then he rips a yellow star from another piece of clothing.)

ED

So the removal of the star was perhaps part of that feeling that "This is enough." In other words, "You have to risk this to get out of this in some way."

ED ON VIDEO

(*The HITLER YOUTH from the first moment in the play steps forward.*)

HITLER YOUTH

When I am promoted in my unit to the Hitler Youth, our leaders give me a little puppy and they tell me to keep the puppy with me day and night, to feed it and care for it, to let it sleep with me—to make it my property and responsibility. (*German Nationalist music, great fanfare.*) As the Führer has said: "We will be one people, one nation." And the youth—we are going to be *that* people and *that* nation. *Heil Hitler!*

SOUND: Nazi music

SOUND: Nazi rally

SOUND: Mass "Heil Hitler!"
VIDEO TITLE: "1944"
CHASER TITLE:
"Amsterdam"

YOUNG EVA

We've been in hiding now for almost two years. Two years of having to be quiet. Two years of peeking out windows. Two years of being afraid. But today none of that matters. Today I don't feel afraid. Today is my birthday.

MUTTI (*handing YOUNG EVA a small present*)
Happy Birthday, Evi.

EVA

Eleventh May, 1944, it was my 15th birthday and I was

EVA ON VIDEO

—bit excited. My mother and me went down to breakfast—and we were just going to start eating when we heard loud knocking on the door.

(*YOUNG EVA and MUTTI freeze, listen to the sound of the knocking, the door opening, boots coming up the stairs.*)

SS SOLDIER (*V.O.*)
Verfluchte Juden!

SOUND ON VIDEO: Loud knocking, door opening, boots coming up stairs
VIDEO IMAGE: SS Soldier
—Uniform

V.O. ON VIDEO: SS SOLDIER

MUTTI (*panicking*)

But we're just visiting, we're not Jewish!

We haven't done anything...
YOUNG EVA

SS SOLDIER (*V.O.*)
Ihr sau Juden!

V.O. ON VIDEO: SS SOLDIER

EVA

They just marched us down the street and took us to the Gestapo headquarters where we were going to be interrogated. And there was no way we could... we were just stunned into... well, we knew that was going to be the end for us. You know, we just...

EVA ON VIDEO

That was something we had feared for all—all those two years and it had happened now.

MUTTI

We were put into a small room where other people were waiting.

YOUNG EVA

I didn't know what to expect. I was very, very scared.

MUTTI

We waited and waited.

YOUNG EVA

And then they came for me.

(The unseen SS rip MUTTI away from YOUNG EVA.)

MUTTI

Evil!

(A YOUNG EVA sits alone in a chair for interrogation by two SS Nazis.)

ACTOR ONE

What did they look like?

ACTOR TWO

What did they say?

EVA

I only remember their uniforms, and their way of speaking—they were always shouting.

EVA ON VIDEO

SS NAZI *(V.O. on video)*
Erzähle mal was du weisst und du wirst deine Mutter bald wiedersehen.

VIDEO IMAGE: Cut to SS uniform only—no faces. This image of faceless SS uniform will alternate with Eva on video during following interrogation

EVA

"Tell us everything we want to know and then you will see your mother again."

EVA ON VIDEO

SS NAZI *(V.O.)*

Du wirst deinen Vater und Bruder auch sofort wiedersehen.

VIDEO IMAGE: SS uniform
V.O. ON VIDEO: SS NAZI

YOUNG EVA

My father and brother?
Pappy! Heinz!

EVA

That was when I realized that they'd also captured my father and brother.

EVA ON VIDEO

SS NAZI *(V.O.)*

Das ist ja klar—wir haben deine ganze Familie hier.

VIDEO IMAGE: SS boots
V.O. ON VIDEO: SS NAZI

EVA
"Of course! We have them as well."

EVA ON VIDEO

SS NAZI (V.O.)
Wie hat deine Mutter das Geld bekommen?

VIDEO IMAGE: SS uniform
V.O. ON VIDEO: SS NAZI

EVA
"Where did your mother get the money from?"

EVA ON VIDEO

YOUNG EVA
I don't know! Why won't you believe me?

EVA ON VIDEO

The pure arrogance of them, that they could get everything out of us that they wanted, they were the boss.

SS NAZI (V.O.)
Wer hat dir geholfen?

VIDEO IMAGE: SS uniform
V.O. ON VIDEO: SS NAZI

EVA
"Who helped you find places to hide?"

EVA ON VIDEO

YOUNG EVA
I told you—I don't know! I don't know! I don't know!

SS NAZI (V.O.)
Wir werden deinen Bruder foltern, wenn du nicht mit uns mitarbeitest.

VIDEO IMAGE: SS hat
V.O. ON VIDEO: SS NAZI

EVA
"We intend to torture your brother to death unless you cooperate with us."

EVA ON VIDEO

YOUNG EVA
No! Heinz!

SS NAZI (V.O.)
Wir werden dir sogleich zeigen was wir mit ihm machen werden.

VIDEO IMAGE: SS uniform
V.O. ON VIDEO: SS NAZI

EVA
"We will show you what we will do to him."

EVA ON VIDEO
SOUND: Sustained note

(In silence, YOUNG EVA stands, takes off her sweater, drapes it over the chair and walks away. Talking to the audience, looking back at the chair, it's as if YOUNG EVA has left her body and watches while the SS Guards beat her in the chair.)

YOUNG EVA
They are beating me and threatening me. Eventually they will realize I know nothing...if I knew anything I would probably tell them. There's nothing to tell. My name is Eva Geiringer.

Today is my birthday. I am 15 years old. This morning I woke up. I went down to breakfast to open my presents. And then they came for me.

(Knocking on a door.

Louder. Then it fades away like a memory.)

SOUND: Knocking, louder, fades out

EVA

The fifty years fall back and it all comes really back to me. It—this was really the most horrendous experience I've been going through. I knew that we were all four caught now. And we knew about the concentration camps. So I really had to come to terms now with perhaps my life was going to end there.

EVA ON VIDEO

YOUNG ED

After that night when I jumped from the Nazi truck, my grandparents just couldn't take it anymore. And even though it was very dangerous to try to escape—it was something I had to risk.

I am 16 years old. My parents have escaped from Germany and are living in Belgium. I have to try and find them. I have to try to get across the border into Belgium. But Jews are not allowed to travel, to cross borders. If I get caught, the Nazis will kill me. But if I stay... Many friends have simply disappeared. Anne and her family—are gone. Maybe they got away. Maybe I can get away too.

We arrange with a friend of the family to take me across the border. We have secret information about when it might be

safe to try and cross, about when the border guards won't see us. We hide in fields. We sneak into Belgium.

Several days after saying goodbye to my grandparents, I am in Brussels. I have never been here before. My parents don't know I'm coming but I have their address. I get off the street-car, and there—*(ED'S FATHER appears.)*—on the other side of the street—there is my father. We haven't seen each other for four years.

(YOUNG ED whistles from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony to his father. At first his father doesn't hear. YOUNG ED whistles louder. His father suddenly stops, listens to the whistling. He turns and looks in YOUNG ED's direction.)

ED'S FATHER

Helmuth?

(It's as if he can't believe what he's hearing. YOUNG ED and his father walk toward each other and then run, embrace, a warm, emotional reunion.)

YOUNG ED

Father!

ED'S FATHER

How did you find us? How did you get here?

YOUNG ED

By train, on foot, on bicycle—

ED'S FATHER

But how did you get across the border?

YOUNG ED

We snuck across.

ED'S FATHER

Four years, Helmut. We haven't seen you for four years...
Your mother won't believe how much you've grown.

YOUNG ED

Is Mother—

ED'S FATHER

She's fine. Your mother's fine. She'll be so happy to see
you.

*(He embraces YOUNG ED again and looks at his face in
disbelief.)*

ED

He was stunned at first, and
happy to see me of course.

ED ON VIDEO

And the underlying...the un-
derlying feeling was always
in some way related to the
situation. Like—wonderful,
I'm happy you're here—but
what are we going to do now?

YOUNG EVA

After we were arrested on
my birthday, my family is
transported to Westerbork—
a transit camp...a kind of
holding camp where there
are thousands of other Jew-
ish and Gypsy families.
Waiting. A few days later
they put us on another train.

SOUND ON VIDEO: Train

*(The sound of a train start-
ing to move very slowly.)*

SOUND: (NOTE:

*Eva's family joins YOUNG
EVA on the train.)*

Additional sound on
sound CD to play
simultaneously) train

YOUNG EVA

Two days, three days...

HEINZ

Four days...

PAPPY

We don't know when it is day—

MUTTI

We don't know when it is night.

YOUNG EVA

The train is like cattle cars—

EVA

They WERE cattle cars. It
was just big wagons with
two iron doors. There was
nothing in it whatsoever, no
bedding, no nothing. We got
buckets for toilet facilities.

EVA ON VIDEO

YOUNG EVA

A hundred people are
pushed together in one car.

SOUND ON VIDEO: Train

HEINZ

It's so tight that we have to take turns standing—