

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

EVA ON VIDEO

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.

ENIGMA

YOUNG ED

After that night when I jumped from the Nazi truck, my grandparents just couldn't take it anymore. And even though I 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.

(Says 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

Helmut?

(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.

~~SS BORDER GUARD #2
He's a child—~~

~~V.O. ON VIDEO:
SS BORDER GUARD~~

~~SS BORDER GUARD #1
He's Jewish!~~

~~V.O. ON VIDEO:
SS BORDER GUARD~~

~~(YOUNG ED watches fearfully, as if looking up from one BORDER GUARD to the other, waiting for them to decide his fate. They begin to argue in German. This continues under.)~~

~~VIDEO IMAGES: SS Guards~~

~~V.O. ON VIDEO:
SS BORDER GUARDS~~

~~ED (V.O.)
Something happened—I never knew what—~~

~~V.O. ON VIDEO: ED~~

~~(SS GUARDS V.O. out.)~~

~~ED
—at the other end of the station platform—and they walked away.~~

~~ED ON VIDEO~~

YOUNG ED
And I got back on the train. By the time I reached my grandparents' home in Amsterdam they had no idea what had happened in Germany.

ED
I always felt at first they really didn't believe me... why I was there.

ED ON VIDEO

ED

~~PROJECTED TITLE:
"Kristallnacht"~~

~~DISSOLVE TO SEPARATE
IMAGE: "Night of the
Broken Glass"~~

YOUNG ED

But the next day it is on the radio and in all of the newspapers: the German Kristallnacht—Night of the Broken Glass—had destroyed Jewish businesses and burned synagogues. Thirty thousand German Jewish men and boys were arrested and sent to concentration camps. I have no idea when I'll see my parents again. Or even IF I'll see my parents again. I am lucky to be with my grandparents in Amsterdam. (Beat.) For the moment, I am in a safe place.

VIDEO TITLE: "1938"

CHASER TITLE: "Austria"

EVA (V.O.)

My brother Heinz looked rather Jewish—

V.O. ON VIDEO: EVA

EVA

And different from me with blonde and blue-eyed... and um, so everybody knew he was Jewish. And um...

EVA ON VIDEO

EVA (V.O.)

His friends from his school, from his class attacked him one day. And he came home all bleeding, his nose and his eye was cut.

V.O. ON VIDEO: EVA
VIDEO IMAGE: Eva and Heinz on bicycles

~~Heils, and the JEWS are the lowest form of mankind. If we can get rid of the Jews the world will be a better place. That is what the Führer says. Heil, Hitler!~~

Hitler Youth

I've been a member of the Hitler Youth since I was seven. Heil, Hitler!

~~German nationalist music begins low and builds~~
~~YOUNG GERMEN~~
~~VOICES over which the (sings)~~

We say "Heil, Hitler!" if we meet a friend on the way to school. We say "Heil, Hitler!" at the beginning and end of every class. The Postman says "Heil, Hitler!" The woman who sells us groceries says "Heil, Hitler!" If our parents don't say "Heil, Hitler!" we are supposed to report them and they will be arrested.

~~SOUND: Mass "Heil Hitler!"~~

~~VIDEO IMAGE: Swastika~~

~~VIDEO IMAGE: 1930s~~

~~Noisily in stadium~~

~~VIDEO IMAGE: Hitler in car~~

~~SOUND: Mass "Heil Hitler!"~~

~~VIDEO IMAGE: Children~~

~~singing Hitler~~

~~VIDEO IMAGE: Adults~~

~~singing Hitler~~

~~VIDEO IMAGE: Children~~
~~singing Hitler~~

~~VIDEO IMAGE: Hitler~~
~~singing~~

~~VIDEO IMAGE: Child saluting Hitler~~

~~(German BOYS and GIRLS — hundreds and thousands of voices joining)~~

~~SOUND: Children's voices reciting:~~

HITLER YOUTH & CHILDREN'S VOICES
"I promise at all times to do my duty for the Führer, so help me God." November 9, 1938. Germany needs you! Heil, Hitler!

~~(Sounds of thousands of youth cheering. The~~

~~YOUNG BOY has com-~~

~~pleted his transformation~~

~~into a YOUNG HITLER~~

~~YOUTH. As he runs out,~~

~~he rips down the curtain~~

~~which reveals a stage~~

~~filled with posters, plac-~~

~~ards—slogans all written~~

~~in German. The cheering~~

~~crowds and German music~~

~~fades away. We begin to~~

~~hear the sound of boots.~~

~~Boots marching in unison.~~

~~Order. Hundreds of thou-~~

~~sands of boots. Then the~~

~~sound change to boots~~

~~trampling. Chaos. Break-~~

~~ing glass. And dogs bark-~~

~~ing. German Shepherds.~~

~~Victor's barking. We hear~~

~~voices in the distance~~

~~shouting commands in~~

~~German. Then we hear~~

~~SOUND: Cheering crowd:
"Heil Hitler!"~~

~~SOUND: Boots marching,
tanks firing, tanks passing.~~

~~SOUND: Breaking glass~~

~~SOUND: Dogs barking~~

~~SOUND: German
commands
More marching
More tanks~~