

2003: Traumas

The Cast of Characters

Father:	Solly	Born in Lithuania	1910	Came to U.S. in 1948	Survived Dachau
Mother:	Bella	Born in Germany	1921	Came to U.S. in 1948	Ran throughout war
1/2 Brother:	Henry	Born in Lithuania	1936	Came to U.S. in 1948	Hidden in Orphanage
1/2 Sister:	Ilana	Born in Lithuania	1938	Came to U.S. in 1948	Hidden in Orphanage
Cousin	Ellen	Born in Lithuania	1934	Came to U.S. in 1948	Hidden in Orphanage
Me:	Barry	Born in the U.S.A.	1952		
Sister:	Rina	Born in the U.S.A.	1954		

Age

- 0 Born into family of five Holocaust survivors.
- 1 Father feeds me herring. "Lithuanian baptism" Six months of diarrhea.
- 2 Younger sister, Rina, is born. Father's favorite.
Move from NYC to Buffalo.
- 3 Parents fight incessantly. Especially at night.
Brother, Henry, leaves for army to escape family problems.
Hitting me on the behind begins as a punishment
- 4 Parents fight incessantly. Especially at night.
Father slaps me across the face in the middle of the night while I am sleeping.
- 5 Kindergarten starts. Terrible fear of kids and leaving mother's side.
Moved to housing complex for the poor.
- 6 1st grade playmate threatens to tell the teacher that I hate her.
Move to Ventura, CA.
Separated from father. Separated from older sister, Ilana, with whom I was close.
- 7 Father comes to Ventura.
Parents fight constantly.
Apt. building catches fire.
Father leaves again after divorce.
Mother leaves Rina and me alone for hours at a time day or night.
Mother catches fire, in freak kitchen fire but survives unharmed.
Mother leaves Rina and me at the side of the freeway as punishment.
- 8 Move to L.A.
Bitten by boy while I was playing "bully."
- 9 Snubbed by two male friends. I beat up one of them.
Father comes to visit. I got separated from my father and Rina at Disneyland.
Father leaves and thereby reopens old wounds.
Mother has a car accident and is hospitalized for several weeks. Rina and I are alone.
I leave Mrs. Shapiro's 4th grade class in June in tears at losing her as my teacher.
- 10 Summer visit to father in N.Y.. Loving relationship. We are separated again when I leave.
- 11 Summer visit to Ilana in Texas. Loving relationship. We are separated again when I leave.
- 12 Move to another Apt. building in L.A.
Another summer visit to Ilana in Texas. Good relationship with Ilana dissolves.
- 13 Father comes for Bar Mitzvah. I find I don't like him anymore.
Feelings for homosexuality become overwhelmingly present.
- 14 I feel the need to super excel in school.
I'm picked on at school by bullies.
- 15 I visit father in NY. Negative feelings for him remain.
- 16 AFS (American Field Service) doesn't choose me to represent them abroad. I can't leave mother and Rina although I desperately want to.
Left part-time job.

- Young man in a moving car tries to hit my car with a wrench.
I'm confronted after school by bullies and hit in the face.
- 17 Traveled to Europe by myself.
Got very, very sick in Israel.
Gave up scholarship at UCLA to pursue ballet.
- 18 First sexual experience: with a woman on my 18th birthday. Terribly unsuccessful.
First sexual experience with a man. I broke my leg the very next day in a ballet class.
Ostracized from a folk dance café where I was a popular teacher.
Left folk dance job.
Moved to Israel to dance.
Left my mother behind.
Ostracized by ballet company in Israel.
Moved twice in Tel Aviv.
- 19 Quit ballet company to get away from colleagues and pursue gay social life in Tel Aviv.
Left another two jobs that year in Israel.
Left boyfriend, Yoram to live in Holland.
Moved from Israel to Holland.
- 20 Series of German boyfriends who leave me, ages 20-23
Left my first job in Amsterdam.
Moved twice that year in Amsterdam.
Hit by young Dutch man for bumping my bicycle into his car.
- 21 Tonsils removed in Amsterdam.
Bought a houseboat in Amsterdam and tried to repair it. Discovered I had limited skills.
- 22 Fired from job at bank in Amsterdam for attitude problem.
Abandoned by best friends in Amsterdam.
Hit by a young French man in a French discotheque for being too friendly.
- 23 Returned to U.S. First suicide attempt in L.A. (Aspirins)
Left first U.S. job after one year.
Mental Illness
Moved from Rina's to Mom's.
- 24 Mental illness
- 25 Mental Illness: Moved out of Mothe's apt. in anger.
One week later attempt second suicide time (driving off of cliff)
Kicked out of L.A. City College for being disruptive (mentally unstable).
- 26 Left four jobs in quick succession.
- 27 Began college and feel the need to super excel.
Left part-time job held while in school.
- 28 I feel the need to super excel in college.
Left part-time job held while in school.
- 29 I feel the need to super excel in college.
Left part-time job held while in school.
Another severe mental breakdown.
- 30 Joined A.A. and found comradeship.
Left two jobs in quick succession.
- 32 Became an English teacher in East L.A.
- 33 A lesser bout of mental illness.
- 36 I caused a car accident in Santa Fe, NM. And wrecked a rental car.
- 37 Moved to Healdsburg.
Left my mother.
Persecuted by teaching job for being gay.
Met Larry. Quit teaching job and moved to S.F.
- 38 Larry has Shingles. I fear his dying of AIDS.

Quit teaching job.
39 Move to our own house.
Quit self run business.
40 Fired from teaching job for no good reason at all.
41 Anal Fissure operation.
42 Quit self made business.
Hand operation.
43 Father dies. I am at his bedside for several days in NY. We have some closure.
44 2nd anal fissure operation.
Quit teaching job. Accused of seducing a student. Mental instability may be cause.
45 Larry's business collapses. We begin working together although it isn't easy for us.
46 Larry wanted sex outside our relationship.
47 Larry diagnosed with lymphoma.