

Albany Park Theater Project

Storygathering Transcript

Told October 10 and 14, 2003 by Rachel Floarea

My aunt went and she asked my mom if I could go stay with her for two days. Surprisingly, my mom said yes. So my aunt took me to her house. The house that I—it was the house where I was as a baby, but I had no memories of that. And the first thing my aunt did was she made me this big steak. I had never had steak in my life. And my aunt asked me, “Have you ever had steak?” And I said, “No. Dad says that steak isn’t for little kids. God doesn’t want steak for little kids.” So she’s like, “What a sicko.”



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And so we were eating steak. And she takes out this video of me when I stayed with her as a baby. And I’m walking around, I’m happy. I have all these toys around me. I was like so spoiled. And my aunt, she was holding me in her arms. And I thought I’ve never been held by anybody. I always thought I was nothing to nobody, I was just there to be beaten. But she was holding me in her arms and we were watching the video of her holding me in her arms. And I’m like smiling at myself. And I was like, “Oh my God, I loved her.” You know?

And then this one time, we were watching a movie on TV, and she tells me she loves me. She’s like, “I love you, Sarah.” And, you know, I’m like, you know, it’s like, I tell her, “I love you, too.” She knew how much I loved her, but she never heard the words from me. And then I’m like, “You know, this is the first time I’ve ever felt special, I’ve ever felt love in my heart.” So she just starts crying with me. And we start crying together, and we’re just crying there. And then I start telling her everything he did to me. And I just started saying all these things. And then every night we’d stay up so late and I’d just talk to her. She was like this person who’d just sit there and listen. And that’s what I needed.

And every time I would start to talk to Irina and Petar about it, like I would refer to him as being worse and worse. I would start with “Yeah, he was mean to me” and then like, “Yeah, okay, he was a bastard. That was not a normal life. That was not how life should be.” Irina taught me that. And Petar. They brought me into the world. I was never in the world. I was always lost. I was always not here. They opened my eyes. I could never see. I could never hear. I could never touch. I could never love before I met Petar and Irina. When I first started living with them they gave me sight. I’m not saying that poetically, I mean like they literally made me see where I am and what this world has to offer. That’s what it was like from the moment that I met them, the moment that I got to know them, it was like they brought me into the world – they did.