

MUTTI #2

(Scene/Monologue)

Berlin, Nazi Germany, 1938.
The Parlor. The Lehmann’s Apartment.

NOTE: Young Anne Lehmann used German terms of endearment for her parents. She called her mother Mutti (pronounced: “MOO-tee”); and her father Vati (pronounced “VAH-tee”).

Vati & Mutti (Mr. & Mrs. Lehmann) are a Jewish married couple living in pre-World War II Nazi Germany. Life for Jews has become increasingly hard. Many laws have been passed that harshly discriminate against Jews. Vati cannot work in banking anymore. Mutti can only shop at Jewish stores. Their daughter Anne can’t go to public school anymore. Jews are barred from public places like restaurants, theaters, even a bench in the park. Vati has been increasingly anxious for his family and has been desperately trying to get them all out of Germany. The Lehmann’s also have a college aged son Gunter who is living on a student visa in England. Despite all Vati & Gunter’s efforts, the Nazis won’t let the Lehmann’s emigrate.

MUTTI is very warm, expressive, compassionate, intelligent, and loving. She is well aware of the dangerous outside world but chooses to meet it with optimism that things will improve. To her children, Mutti is always a source of comfort, love, and understanding. Because of Vati’s gruff temperament, she often acts as peacemaker between him and his children.

Here, Vati has just yelled at Anne and slammed the door – exiting his study. Anne is upset, angry. Mutti comes to comfort Anne.

MUTTI

You must be patient with Vati. Your father has a lot on his mind right now.

ANNE

Like what?

MUTTI

Things he and I don't want you to worry about.

ANNE

Like how he can't find a job?

MUTTI

That, and well...everything that's happening in Germany today.

ANNE

Well, he could talk to me about it! But instead he just yells and then closes the door to his study and listens to his dumb music!

MUTTI

Music is very important to Vati.

ANNE

Seems he's always listening to his boring records.

(music plays) (dialogue continues over music)

...See? There he goes again. Which one is that?

MUTTI

Beethoven...I remember once hearing Vati play that on his violin.

ANNE

I thought he was always a banker.

MUTTI

Oh, when I first met your father – of course he was handsome – but his music...oh my... he could create such beautiful music on his violin. I think that's why I fell in love with him – such wonderful music. Maybe he could have been a professional violinist.

ANNE

Why didn't he?

MUTTI

Oh, his father would never have allowed that. Besides, soon he was a young married man with a baby on the way.

...Of course, then the Great War of 1914 – and Vati lost his arm fighting for his beloved Germany. He was so proud when Germany awarded him the Iron Cross. But Anne – he lost his ability to play music.

...So now – don't you see how hard this must all be for him?? Now when his own beloved Germany is rejecting him – saying he's no longer a citizen – taking away all of his rights, his hopes. I think that is why Vati listens to his music.

(pauses) (quoting Vati)

...“As long as we have music, we have hope.”

...So, you will be patient with Vati, won't you?

END OF SIDE.