# Susanna Moore's Courageous Story

A Holocaust survivor's story aimed to educate children on a dark period of history.

Thank you, Susanna, for being such a positive and influential passenger on my journey.

Once upon a time, in the magical city of Budapest, there lived a young Jewish girl named Susanna. She had a smile that could light up the darkest night and a heart full of wonder and curiosity.

Susanna lived in a cozy apartment with her mom, Margaret, dad, Lipot, and big brother, Thomas. They were a close-knit family, always laughing and playing together. From their window, they could see the sparkling waters of the Danube River and the majestic domes of the Great Synagogue.

As Susanna grew older, she noticed that Budapest was starting to change in a sad and scary way. Sometimes, when she tried to go to school with her friends, she was told she couldn't come in because she was Jewish. It made her heart sink.

One day, when Susanna and her family went out to eat at their favorite restaurant, the waiter shook his head and said they couldn't come in. Susanna just wanted to enjoy a meal with her family but left feeling hungry and confused. Another time, Susanna's mom pinned a yellow star on her coat. Susanna thought it looked pretty at first, but soon, she realized it was a symbol that meant people treated her differently because she was Jewish. It made her feel like she was constantly being watched, and she didn't like it one bit.

But even when these things happened, Susanna held onto the love and strength of her family. They reminded her that no matter what others said or did, she was still special and worthy of love.

One day, Susanna and her family faced a very sad time. Susanna's dad was taken away to a faraway place called a labor camp just because he was Jewish. It was a scary time for them all.

Before he left, Susanna and her dad hugged each other tightly, holding onto each other as if they never wanted to let go. As Susanna and her dad said their goodbyes, her dad told Susanna that no matter how far apart they were, their love would always keep them close in their hearts. And so, with tears in her eyes, Susanna faced the days ahead with courage, holding onto the memories of her dad's warm hugs.
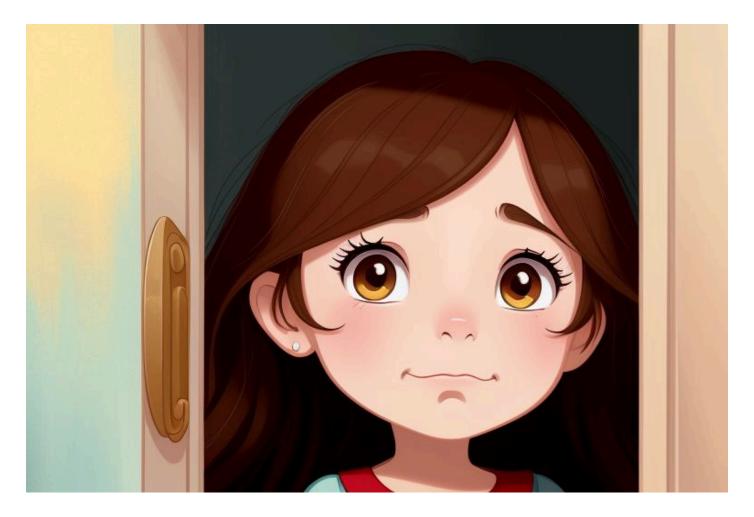
Things in Budapest started to get worse. The people who were mean to Susanna because she was Jewish got even meaner. Suddenly, a group called the Nazis came and took over Budapest. The Nazis didn't like anyone who was Jewish, including Susanna. This made Susanna's heart feel heavy with fear.

One day, there was a big boom! Susanna's apartment building shook, and everything turned to chaos. Their home was destroyed by the Nazis, burning everything Susanna had.
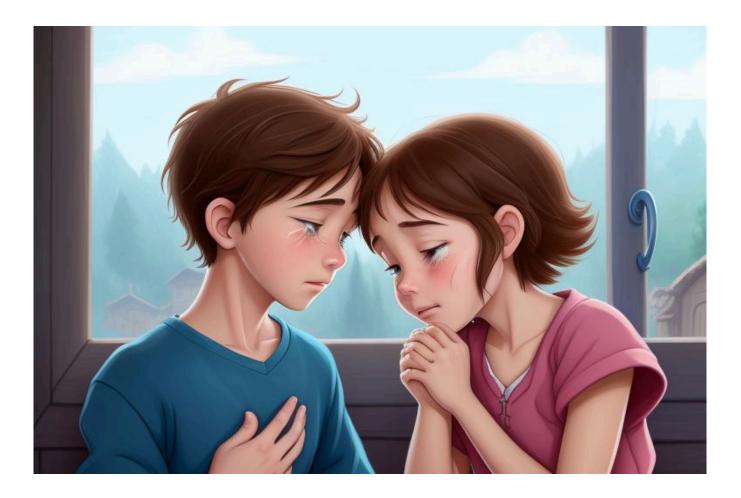
After losing their home, Susanna and her family were forced to move to a ghetto, which is a very sad place where people who are treated unfairly, like Susanna and her family, are forced to live. It's crowded, and there's not a lot of food or space to play. In the ghetto, Susanna saw sadness in people's eyes, just like hers.

But even in the darkest times, Susanna's family tried to stay strong together.

In the coming days, the Nazis got meaner, and things got even scarier for Susanna. Susanna's mother got captured by the Nazis and sent away.

With her mother gone, Susanna had to find a safe place to hide. She was lucky to have some family who were safe from the Nazis because they were not Jewish. Susanna's family opened their hearts and home to Susanna, hiding her like a precious treasure. But hiding was not easy. Susanna had to stay very quiet and pretend to be someone else, someone not Jewish, so that the mean Nazis wouldn't find her. It was like playing a big game of hide-and-seek but with real dangers.

After some time, things got even worse, and Susanna had to leave her hiding place. Susanna was taken to a convent, where she was reunited with her brother. There, life was very hard. Susanna had to sleep on the hard floor, and she didn't have any toys to play with. The worst part was that there was no real food but only tasteless liquid to drink. Susanna was always hungry and couldn't take a nice, warm shower like she used to, and sometimes she even got lice in her hair. It was a sad and lonely time for Susanna.

Even though Susanna tried to find safe places to live, she learned that being Jewish meant some people didn't like her just because of who she was. With each passing day, she whispered a little prayer, asking for strength, a safe home to live in, and to be reunited with her mother.

One day, a group of very nice doctors called the Red Cross came to help Susanna leave the sad convent. The Red Cross brought Susanna and her brother food, clean clothes, and medicine to help them feel strong again. Finally, Susanna was freed from the scary Nazis. She felt like a bird flying out of a cage, free and happy again!

There were many countries, like the United States, that cared for and wanted to protect the Jewish people. So, they came to rescue the Jewish people and help them escape the harsh living conditions, violence and forced labor created by the Nazis.

Then, Susanna got some amazing news. Susanna was given permission to go to a special place called Canada! They were the first country to say "come on in" to Susanna, just the way she was, without asking questions about why she was different.

So, Susanna packed her bags and went on a plane to Canada. It was like going on a great adventure! Even though she left her home behind, Susanna felt excited about all the new friends she would make and the fun things she would do in her new home.

Susanna had big dreams in her new home and knew she had to work hard to make them come true. During the day, Susanna rolled up her sleeves and got to work, doing all she could to save money. But Susanna didn't stop there. After a hard day's work, she sat down with her books and studied English when the stars twinkled in the night sky.

It was a new language for her, but she was determined to learn it so she could talk to her new friends and better understand the world around her. Little by little, Susanna's English got better and better, and Susanna moved closer to her dreams of living in the United States and starting a family.

Today, Susanna is a very wise 85-year-old woman who lives in South Florida and loves to spend time with her children and grandchildren. Susanna's family brings her so much happiness and love. She's very proud of everything she's been through, and all her family has accomplished. Susanna's mother was freed from Bergen-Belsen by the English army and taken to Sweden for recovery. Unfortunately, Susanna lost her father, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins during the Holocaust.

There are many lessons that can be learned from the tough times Susanna endured. Susanna wants everyone to know that no matter what challenges they face, they can always find strength and positivity in the world. Everyone is special in their own way, and it's important to be kind and loving to everyone, no matter how different they may seem. So, every day, Susanna tells her stories with a big smile on her face, knowing that her journey has brought her to a place filled with love and joy.

# Susanna's Family Pictures



Susanna and Thomas (brother)



Susanna's Parents Wedding Photo

Top Row: Lipot (father), Margaret (mother), Alfred (uncle), Ervin (uncle)

Middle Row: Margit (aunt) and Roza & Lajos (grandparents)

Bottom Row: Thomas (brother) & Susanna