

Diana Boernstein

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LH: Just put it here and it's a pretty good little one. Oh thank you. So sorry I interrupted your...

DB: No, that's all right. It's your... Quincy. Now come on boy. As soon as he sees a warm seat. (Growl!!!). It's cause he sees Festus down ????. Festus, take no notice boy.

LH: Diana, are you okay with me just clicking?

DB: Sure. Yes. Yes.

LH: Film as we go along. I'm not a photographer so I'm, I'm just literally here to click as we go along. Well, you were talking... let's just continue with what you were talking about because it's so fascinating, but also I don't have a specific sequence of questions. I just sort of go with the flow. It is more of a conversation.

DB: Are you more interested in what happened then or what's happening now?

LH: Well, what I'm interested... one of the questions that I'm interested in is the circumstances, you know, when you left South Africa and the circumstances that surrounded your leaving and the experiences you've had going back and forth, your experience of aging in a culture other than your own. That's one segment of the questioning, of the interview. And the other part of the interview is your family background and your experiences of living here. I'm interested in the concept of home and how we transport home with us and how we live bi-culturally.

DB: See in my case I worked all my life, all my working life in the United Nations, which is a multi cultural place. I don't feel transported anywhere. I feel like this is my home and when I go back to South Africa it's my home too, but this is ... it's not... I don't feel an alien at all here. I think part of that is because of working in the United Nations where there wasn't, in any gathering, there weren't more than one or two people of the same nationality.

LH: Yeah, that's exactly what almost word for word what Stephanie was saying last night too, about working at the United Nations, you know, just being in this international milieu that...

DB: So that you don't feel alien. You're amongst aliens all the time. Yeah. And now... now it's... the reason I left South Africa in the first place I suppose was because I didn't like my parents. I had no major political motive. I just wanted to get away from home, which I think is same with many people and left home very, very young and made my own way from...

LH: And what year was that?

DB: About a hundred thousand years ago. I don't remember, but in... I first left when I was fifteen. I went to Egypt and then I did come back, went to Rhodes and it was really ??? in the fifties and then went to keep... I can't remember exactly how the sequence went, but I did go to Oxford and kept house for my brother when he was there. I was terribly young when I got a Bachelor's and that's one of things that... stupidly young and I worked in London for the Anti Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society for a couple of, some years and then my brother got married in America. I came over for this wedding and just fell in love with New York and I've been here ever since and the closest... the only way I could work in, on a visitor's visa was either at embassies or the UN and I went to the ... with my suitcases, to the UN and was sent ... even though I had a Master's degree at the time, I was sent off to do a typing test, which I failed, thank God. Otherwise, I would be a, probably be a typist at this day, you know.

LH: And what did you get your Master's in?

Dag Hammarskjöld

DB: Oh, that was, that first one I think was just in English and Politics and subsequently I was taken on as a clerk and I worked. I was fortunate enough to be put in ??? office and worked for him and Ralph ~~??~~ and oddly enough I'm now associated in one of the groups that I'm working for with Ralph ~~??~~ daughter, Joan, who's my age and ~~??~~ saw her yesterday. We had a day together, but, so that was, that was right at the

*Burchell
Burchell's*

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U.N.'s

beginning, thrown into it, very exciting period in the ~~US~~ history. At the lowest possible level. I was a G2 which was like a messenger level and...

LH: And yet you were surrounded with all these wonderful people.

DB: Yeah, and it was terribly exciting. I was just thrilled to be here. It didn't bother me that I was, I was such a low level and eighty dollars a week I think and the whole first year I was here I didn't have an apartment. I stayed in other people's apartments and took care of their iguanas or their cats or something or their geraniums and had a wonderful time. I actually opened a little store here on Sullivan Street and this... with a friend. We had a lot of brass rubbings that I had made while in... a friend, another friend had made while in England, at Oxford, so we opened a store in our innocence called the Medieval Rubbing Gallery, not realizing that this sounded like a massage parlor. So we got ... it was there on Sullivan Street and also in our innocence we didn't realize that the next door bar, Goodie's Bar, was an S & M place. I mean we had these very eccentric people come in asking for Medieval Rub, you know. But ??? it was a lot of fun.

LH: That's great.

DB: Then I did gradually, I also struck it lucky in I wasn't that good a clerk. Gigi Julius(?). But I so that I was moved elsewhere but very soon got into the film section and there was a South African in charge, George ??, also rather an eccentric South African and, but very talented and I worked for George and Alistar Cooke. Do you know who he is? He did... he was the... on camera personality. For years and years and years we did lovely documentaries. It was just marvelously great fun and I did... I was... even though a low level was able to do just about anything that you could do at high levels. It was just luck and, but I did gradually rise up and meantime I did a law degree at Columbia. First person ever to have done a law degree at Columbia while working full time and I took six months off to do the first year and then on had to do courses that were either at eight o'clock in the morning or lunch hour or late and it was a ... in retrospect, I don't know how I did it cause... although George ??? luckily... I had him as a boss, he wanted me to be there so he encouraged me to do this rather than quit.

LH: All your cats around here. I'd love to get a picture of you with all your cats.

DB: So he was quite tolerant with my missing a couple of hours. He knew I'd get things done on deadline and I did a Juris(?) doctor law degree at Columbia and, but I still didn't want to practice law. I prefer filmmaking which ??? and, but I was a volunteer defense lawyer and did a lot of high profile, very high profile cases in one ???, you know, and leading up to a ... there's a thing called the panel of counsel at the UN so that you can defend people that are against the system in some way, so that's what I did and leading up to and ending with a ... it was still the Cold War, a Russian who defected, Vladimir ??... defected and in theory none of us is supposed to take orders from our government. Vladimir said he wanted to not take orders from his government. He wanted to obey his oath of office and be a staff member of the UN, taking orders from nobody but the Secretary General. People went into a dead faint. Vladimir was, was let go. He was put on ~~full time~~... on suspension with pay. The Russians came, formally complained if he actually set foot on the premises and this was illegal. It was illegal. Staff members are supposed to not take orders from their government and are supposed to obey the Secretary General. So this was a major kind of case of principle and in order to even take, to work with my client it had to be off the premises and sort of ??? places and the Russians were very hostile to him for defecting and at one point... we both feel pretty sure it was them... ~~who that boy~~ who tried to run down his wife ??? You know, it was a scary period and I did the defense, you know, I was... you are permitted to but it was... it became, you know, a bit awkward to... Nevertheless, I went out there and it went to the world court and again I think I am the first woman to have taken a case to the world court, you know, and we lost, but it was an honorable loss. The, the, the ... it was a completely Cold War decision. There are fifteen judges in the world court. The first ~~five~~ judges all voted for us. The Russians, for the first time, intervened in the world court, so that was a triumph also. The, the third world judges, most of them voted against us, depending on having... arms have been twisted, but the block country judges of course against us. So we ... it was a totally split decision and about seven concurring opinions and it was, it was fairly high profile at the time. Vladimir was not taken back to the UN but he got an honorable settlement and I, you know, had to take

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one. As a result of this case, the Secretary General asked me to be his representative and so I had to ...you know, no longer do it as a volunteer, but to become an official...the representative of the Secretary General in court cases, which I did for years and I, but I vowed to do. ~~not to do~~ it in such a way that it wouldn't ever violate my conscious and I didn't. I didn't. If there was a case that needed to be settled I would settle it and did okay until...

LH: Was this in the sixties or...

Yakimetz case

Hand DB: Well, the vital(?) world court decision in the ~~was~~ was in '82 I think, so it was through the, the latter part of the seventies and I moved over in early '80's to be the Secretary General's representative and there again ~~all went~~, you know, I was very successful and got through a huge quantity of backlogged cases until there was a big fraud inquiry. And again I took my oath of office seriously and I thought that if people are clearly stealing from the UN they ought to be charges brought against them and they're dismissed. And I was going about my business doing this and somehow there were too many higher up politicals involved in the ~~cases~~ cases and I was yanked off this position and moved to what appeared to be a sideline, to being Chief of Rules, and succeeded in the job of prosecutor by somebody much more compliant, who allowed, you know, ~~???~~ amnesty for all these crooks and there you are. It's a...it's the usual kind of story of somebody who wants to try and live by principles ~~???~~ ~~???~~ ~~???~~ and anyway the Chief of Rules ...

LH: But I mean you were living in such an interesting ~~???~~...

DB: Yeah. It was ...

LH: Oh, kitty cat.

DB: Gigi.

LH: You've got some ruthless nails there.

Q: us,
DB: They've been clipped too. ~~???~~ you're tormenting people. He's this tiny little butterfly...wait...he's a masterful manipulator. He ~~sleaps on~~ sleeps on my person and he moves you around until he's got you into position! And then as Chief of Rules is a backwater(?). It ...you made the rules and you had to ~~bring the~~ administrative instructions and somehow this...I don't know if it was because I was there or whatever, but again it became the focal point of stuff, you know, difficulties. One of the things was that being a South African. If, this happened in the prosecutor job as well, if the person I was prosecuting happened to be an African their representatives would go to the Secretary General or to the Undersecretary and say 'what do you expect from a racist South African'? Well, my name is Boernstein, which happens to be my married name. It's a Norwegian name, Björnstein(?) but it sounds Jewish and so if it was an Arab, and I've had many of these crooks(?) who were either African or Arab you can't expect justice from a well known Zionist called Boernstein and then if it was a woman, it was...I was persecuting them because I was a woman, you know. It, it...it was...I had three strikes against me: a woman, South African, with a Jewish sounding name. But, you know, it...I ...in the end I think...

Björnstein

LH: So much for the impartiality of war.

? DB: In the end I think...I've come to think that some people did respect me in the end after, despite sort of being ~~???~~ and actually had a little evidence of this yesterday. I was put up to be on the Board of the Association of Former International Civil Servants, three thousand voters, and I got the highest number of votes, yesterday it was announced, to my amazement. I, you know, I knew I was a hard worker, but I didn't think I was a vote getter, so now I've got myself in for a perfectly horrible job. So that was the UN period and the way that the South African-ness impinged on it and it's never occurred to me to want to go back. I...when...in early days when I did go back to South Africa I just didn't feel that there was a economic place for women and just felt much happier and freer here. And New York in particular because even in London where I lived it's hard to be a single woman. I think you're much more restricted in your activities than you are here. You can...there's no where you can't go.

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LH: Yeah, there's something about, about the, the class structures, the class structure in South Africa and in England that is so restrictive I think, I mean apart from other social things I think...

DB: It's very much a nuclear family environment in both England and South Africa and probably in South Africa it's getting slightly less so now, but during all the time when I was ...it was oppressively so.

LH: Yes.

DB: Dinner parties were always one man, one woman and I was...I was married to an American for quite a long time, but an artist and a very unorthodox kind of warped situation...happily no longer married.

LH: And did you have any children?

DB: No, but I've had youngsters living with me continuously since, since Bob left. David you met was one, who's doing his Ph.D. here and Joy is another. She's an artist and next door is her studio. And David's been with me for ten years and before that there was another South African, Jerry, architect for I'd say about eight years and before that was ~~??~~, a South African artist and so... So it's been...it's actually a very nice way to live.

SLSHa

LH: That reminds me of...have you read any of Maggie Kuhn's writings.

DB: No.

LH: The Gray Panther? She...

DB: Oh, yes I know who she is.

LH: She's...she was a proponent of, of aging, in that way of always having young people around and she found it so stimulating and just enriching for her life because, obviously, she was a very, very intelligent woman who, who yearned for that kind of stimulation and couldn't find it sometimes with her peers.

DB: That's a good thought. I hadn't really thought of it in that way. It seems to me a perfectly natural way to live one's life.

LH: Yeah. And just she found it so stimulating to be connected with people from other generations and this...I know I found it so hard when I'm talking to my students. I teach gerontology and, and this, this notion that it's okay to age segregate, to segregate people by according to age, to me is such a bizarre thing. You know, why would, why would anybody want to be living in an environment with people of their, of the same age range. That just seems so boring on some level. I mean I think there's so much that can be brought through this intergenerational...I mean that's what life is...

DB: Yes, I suppose, but then if you don't happen to have grandchildren or children or anything like that you have to work out a creative way of doing it I suppose.

LH: Absolutely.

DB: And I really don't regret the fact that I haven't had children. It's a bit low(?) point that I feel I had the time to do it cause I ...all the years I was married I was actually supporting my husband and then after he left I ...he inherited a whole lot of money six months after we parted.

LH: Oh no. What was his first name?

DB: Bob Boernstein and...

LH: And is he still here in New York?

DB: Yes. I haven't seen him for years. In the end, he used to come every day even after we were parted...this is not part of your story and he used to just hang around and he's been married a couple of times since and he used the studio and he used to have his assignation ~~2567~~ and actually it was...I just put up with it for years and years and finally Joy took a day...a couple of days of work. I got some movers and rented a small mini storage, moved all his stuff out and in those days it was before we had an elevator. It was up five flights of stairs and the movers complaining bitterly and we rented a mini storage, put his stuff in. I mean I'd written him before asking him to remove it many times, put his stuff in and then wrote him a letter saying this stuff is in such and such a number in the mini storage. As soon as you pay me \$600 for the moving costs I will give you the key and the secret number, but he's never asked for the key. I'm sure, I'm sure he managed to get ~~2567~~ a duplicate.

LH: So, so you've been here for the majority of your life?

DB: Yes, since the early sixties and that's certainly my entire working career except for a couple of years in England doing Anti Slavery Society which, by the way, is coming, is coming into it's own again, the Anti Slavery Society. I heard a lovely interview on the radio recently.

LH: Interesting. Yeah.

DB: It's been soldiering on because people assume slavery is completely over and of course it wasn't, isn't and it's resurging now and the price of slaves has dropped substantially in Sudan and the places where the slaves are still, Mauritania, bought and sold, partly because of the disastrous development problems in the civil wars in Africa. You could, I think the price of a slave is less than it was when I was working there cause I remember we sent a British lord to Mauritania, Lord ~~2567~~, and he bought a slave in ~~2567~~ thirty-seven pounds ten at the time. Now I see you can buy a slave for about seventeen bucks. So...

LH: That's so bizarre.

DB: Yeah.

LH: Well, I was thinking when you were talking about anti slavery about the new, well certainly on the east coast it's newer than in California, the migrant labor system that we all benefit from in this country of people coming from southern countries and doing the kind of work that nobody else wants to do. You know, it's such a form of indentured labor that it is quite parallel to slavery in a way.

DB: No it's not at all. No it really isn't. In fact, that I think is a simplistic ~~thing~~. The people who are coming here may be indentured, may be coming because of extreme poverty, but it's liberation for them. Truly. You have to trust me on that. They come like from, have always, from the Chinese coming over on nailed into boxes at the bottom of holds, spending seventeen days at sea, coming at absolutely abject poverty, are the founders of huge fortunes by now. I'm sorry. But always, and always there have been people coming, working in sweat shops conditions, in appalling circumstances, living piled to small rooms. It is much better than where they came from and I don't think one should compare it to slavery. The...what distinguishes slavery is purchase of somebody and unwillingly. It's not a willing coming in search of economic betterment, even though it seems to us to be, to be pathetic and miserable conditions here.

LH: Well, yeah, I suppose I'm thinking more of people who are forced to choose that. ??? ??? you're right. It is still a choice to come here under those kinds of conditions, but you're right. It's not...they weren't bought into that.

DB: The slaves that ~~2567~~ bought in Timbuktu ~~2567~~ were on the whole slave tribes. They were...the whole tribe was for sale and they ...you could buy one. You went to a slave dealer and they had been conquered at some point in the past. There's no...the, the evil of person, you know, man to man, woman to woman, man to man on the whole are by no means confined to any one continent or Whites or Black or ...

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LH: Yeah. Yeah and it's such a complex issue. Well, talking about... what I'd like to do is just ask you a couple of questions about your, your experiences of leaving South Africa and I wonder if you could think back and describe your first experience of being aware of your race.

DB: (Meoww). Crash) Oh God.

LH: Oh God. He's stuck behind...

DB: He's a provocative(?)... Quincy... you did that... I saw you. Don't ... you cut this poor fellow... his tail is sticking out. Oh Quincy ??? ??? ??? ???. The first sort of consciousness that one was White rather than Black, is that what you mean?

LH: Yeah.

DB: Came honestly in South Africa as a child and very vividly. I can remember exactly the... when it happened because we used to... growing up in the Kalahari we used to play... ~~with the Black children of the labourers~~ ^{our friend} were Black and that was the way it was and they were smarter than we were. They could climb trees and they could walk with their bare feet on the thorn bushes(?) and things like that and, but then in Cape Town... we lived in both places, I had a good friend ^{called} Doreen, the daughter of a maid and I didn't notice that ... and Doreen and I would... did sort of naughty thing that children do. We sort of crawled under people's fences and went to see them and peered at them and invited in by some neighbor way down the road and my mother was livid. You're going around with a Colored girl. And that was the first time I actually noticed that Doreen was Colored, but that was a very long time ago and it's... and, you know, in the... I suppose when I was at Rhodes we did a lot of protesting and we were very much aware of it. But I didn't know many Black people. I know we still regarded them as ... although they were Blacks at Rhodes, very few, and we had...

LH: What years were you at Rhodes? Do you remember?

DB: Fifty, first time ^{I graduated} was at graduation in fifty-four and then I went back and did a Master's degree and graduated in fifty-seven, I think. Something like that. But Maggie and I were great crusaders in those days and did... it was the time when there were awful things happening. What were they? They were...

LH: Well, those horrible acts, the ??? ???, the mixed marriages...

DB: And there was sort of pretty heavy-duty police action going on. Maggie and I were, I won't say arrested, cause we weren't sort of incarcerated, but we had a terrifying episode where we... Maggie, my friend Maggie. Maggie was the first woman chairman of an SRC and I was the secretary of that, that distant(?) year and we went to a ... we both also working for the ^{Board of} Regional Survey. We had an interpreter and he played the trumpet in a jazz band and said wouldn't we come and listen to a jazz concert ^{in the location} ~~???~~, which we did and with our lily-white boyfriends in full evening dress, you know. And we went to this location and to our horror we were put onto this stage and speeches were made about how nice to have our White friends. It was all terribly distant and non, you know, uncomfortable and formal and the jazz concert was lovely and we were going... and then it was followed... this is the kind of thing... I haven't thought about this tale for so long. It sounds so ridiculous. It was followed by a professional Black couple dancing, a couple of Black... They were wonderful and at the end of this we applauded like crazy. At the end of this the Master of Ceremonies said delighted that we were there and perhaps the White ladies would give an exhibition with Mr. ^{or whatever his name was} ~~???~~ So Maggie and I bravely said we would ^{stumbled} ~~an~~ around over our feet with this, ^{you know, alone in the middle of six hundred people were there... in the middle of the floor, and the next day the police... didn't come to us initially, they went to the Vice Chancellor of the university and said your two political student leaders were dancing with...}

LH: Seemed to be fraternizing.

DB: Dancing with ^{blacks} ~~???~~ last night and went off to a beer hall. They embroidered the story so much. We had not gone to a beer hall. The Vice Chancellor, instead of calling us in and saying did you do this, immediately assumed we had done it and, again, this is so ^{minor} ~~???~~ and there were much, much worse examples

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of fraternization took place at Rhodes later, but I we were the pathfinders I think and it was quite a scary time. A lot of the people who were at the jazz concert, Blacks, were hauled in and questioned and many were vulnerable because of passes and things like that and...In the end, it was dropped because nobody could find the proof, but we...all it was just a scary time, but I ...horrible crime of dancing with Blacks, you know...in full evening dress in front of hundreds of people.

LH: I know when I hear these stories and I think about my own, my own story, which is of course is much later, occurred much later than your experiences, in the early '70's and I, you know, and people ask me about it and I tell them about, you know, being involved with somebody, with a person of Color and having to leave South Africa and having a child and, you know, all these...the classic mixed marriages story.

DB: You did all that? Oh, good for you dear(?).

LH: Yes. And now when I tell the story, you know, and I think God this is so bizarre, you know. It's hard, even though it's only twenty-five years ago, it still seems so...it's hard to explain it, especially in another context. It's really, really odd, these confluences with history.

DB: Well, ??? ??, you know, in this country too I think it's...

LH: Oh yeah. I mean still.

DB: It still is regarded as sort of odd.

LH: Yeah. Certainly where I live in North Carolina.

DB: This is the difference with living at the UN where half the marriages are mixed.

LH: Yeah. And I think also New York is such an, literally, I mean obviously literally, but metaphorically an island of culture that certainly doesn't represent the rest of the United States.

DB: When I was at Rhodes, when we were at Rhodes the gossip...

LH: Tell me when you want to take a break.

DB: No. I'm fine. Quite happy. There once, it was terribly hard to meet Black people. They weren't at college, but we did...the place where you did meet was at jazz and so I became a very close friend of ~~???~~ *Dallas* ~~???~~ who...

Brand

LH: I interviewed his wife, by the way.

DB: Bea? How is she? Where is she?

LH: She's at the Chelsea hotel.

DB: Still? You're kidding?

LH: Yeah.

DB: Good Lord. Recently?

LH: Yeah. About two months ago. She's still there.

DB: I'll check with ...her number's still the same...the one that I have.

LH: I've got her number with me.

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Tsid: Tsakwe

DB: ~~???~~ and ~~???~~ are her two children and...are they still married? Dare I ask?

LH: Well, he's in South Africa and she's here and she considers herself still married.

DB: But you know she has through thick and thin because the early days when he was first here and he was really bad, bad lush and he used to come here visit this loft ~~and~~ the first two or three days of major, major drinking binges and, and Bea would, would telephone usually day three, by which time he'd moved on to somebody who would put up with when he was ~~???~~ drunk

LH: I know. Gosh. Yeah. She's devoted to him.

DB: Yeah. I don't...she...he's a wonderful, wonderful person.

LH: Yeah, I was thinking about her when you were talking about the jazz of course.

DB: And oddly enough, she grew up in Clairemont, not very far from where I grew up. Although, of course, I didn't know her in the different...

LH: Did you also grow up in Clairemont?

DB: *Nestled, actually*
Yeah. ~~???~~. Separated from by just a few blocks, but under very different circumstances. She was a hideously battered child and horrible. *Home life.*

LH: Yeah. So what was your birth name?

DB: Hermans. My brother went on to become ...he's the first White South African who became a Botswana citizen and then became the governor of the Bank of Botswana and just retired and is maybe, possibly going to be the Botswana ambassador to the ~~states~~ So I don't know. He...~~they were~~ *has been* doing consultancies for, yes, Arafat and people like that, you know.

LH: Gosh, you've all got such fascinating family ties. You know, of course, Cheetah's ...it was fascinating hearing about her family too.

DB: *Fink* *Fink*
~~???~~ is wonderful. Yeah. He's super. He's...I just introduced ~~???~~ to my brother because he's, ~~???~~, is now going to be looking for consultancies and my brother seems to have gotten into a wavelength of very interesting consultancies.

LH: Oh, now with Mandela retiring.

DB: Yeah. But ~~???~~ *Fink is* doing pretty well too.

LH: And so the family you grew up in, can you give me a description of, of your family.

DB: *was*
Mother ~~is~~ English. Father Afrikaans. Terrible fights with my father. He was an alcoholic and I hit him. You know, fisticuffs and knocked him out several times, as a quite ~~???~~ child. Yeah. I mean I ...no, it was in my teens, but, and it was impossible. I used to urge mother to leave and she said she couldn't because of the marigolds or because it was the ~~daily~~ *daily* ~~???~~ and I thought God how can you possibly make your own life and happiness subservient to ~~???~~. Now I fully understand why she couldn't leave. There was no economic place for her. She couldn't. I...~~when~~ you're so stupid and narrow minded as a young person, I suppose.

LH: Well, also I don't think we have the cognizance of the, of the confluence of historical events because we're, you know, we're in a different time frame in a way. Even though it's the same point in time, but we have a completely different perspective about that at fifteen compared to one's mother at fifty-five(?).

DB: Yes, I know. And the, the...one time I did sort of persuade her to leave him. She went to Johannesburg for a bit and then she went back cause what could she do in retrospect, I suppose. That was the ??? She didn't have any sort of great pioneering ??? spirit and she came back, by which time I had got him to go into alcoholics anonymous and as soon as she came back, he ^{rejoined} ~~rejoined~~. So it was almost a kind of...there's a ...there are these ^{neutral} ~~neutral~~, protective whatever it was relationships that people sometimes have.

LH: That co dependence, or whatever they call it.

DB: I suppose so.

LH: And so where did you....where did you first ...did you have a set of values in your home other than the domestic...

DB: I...you know, I have no idea where those arose from. I truly don't know. I never thought of it actually because they certainly didn't arise from either parent. Well, mother was in the Black Sash, you know, it was...but it was a fairly simplistic kind of this is the right thing and that's wrong, you know, but not...no sophisticated analysis of what was happening. It was through friends and not ??? friends either. It just couldn't happen(?). I ~~was~~ ^{was} one of the very few people in my class ~~who~~ ^{school} friends who went to college even. Everybody ^{was} ~~was~~ waiting to get married.

LH: God, even in my generation I have to say, it's embarrassing to say that, that even...I mean I graduated...I got ...did my matric in 1972 at Notre Dame convent in ??? and , and of the...it was a tiny class, of the 22 of us who graduated...I went back, coincidentally, had a 20th high school reunion a year and a half ago and it happened to be while I was there and there about ten of us there and we started tracking everybody else's stories and there were only about five of us, out of the twenty-two who'd even gone to , to undergraduate. I mean to Bachelor's level, which I was really surprised about because certainly a lot of them were affluent, came from very affluent families and certainly could have afforded it.

DB: And didn't even think of undergraduate degree as a dowry kind of thing cause that's in some cultures.

LH: And my mother did interestingly. It was a wonderful place to go to find a husband...to UCT and, you know, she did some speech and drama degree. I don't even know ???...

DB: With Rita ~~was~~ ^{Haas} I'm sure. Yes. I did. She's still going strong ...yeah. She is . I promise you. I can't believe it, but she is still teaching my little nieces and nephews. Yeah.

LH: Good heavens. She must be close to a hundred.

DB: I would think . Yeah.

LH: Oh how wonderful.

DB: Isn't that great. Yeah.

LH: Oh that's wonderful. It's people who just are not willing to settle for the mediocrity of life who just keep going and going and going and making wonderful contributions.

DB: When I thought back about my school days, I don't think anybody mentioned to me by thought, word or deed that I might ever have to earn a living. That was not even...and I so envy the kids nowadays who, even though I suppose are trapped to try and think in terms of ~~???~~ ^{career paths}, but at least you have to sort of bear in mind that this course might be more useful to you than that I think. Although all the youngsters that have lived with me here have started off in finding what their direction was going to be and found it in their twenties and so on, not , not during their undergraduate degrees. Pretty much...

LH: Yeah. That...yeah...I think what's happening for...well, I'm forty four now and I only...I was a very late...well relatively later bloomer, I suppose, one could say and only went to university when I was twenty-six for various reasons, but, but when I think about...

DB: Married or not married? You were already by then?

LH: No. No. We didn't ...my...the father of my daughter and I were not...we were married under Muslim rights but not legally cause we couldn't be obviously, but and then we split up. It's a whole long story, but anyway then went to university late and what I'm finding now is that , being a teacher myself, that...

DB: If the light gets in your eyes we can move into the shade over there.

LH: No, it's fine. Thanks. This is actually really nice ???.

DB: This is wonderful.

LH: Yeah. It's gorgeous. What I found, Diana, is that , that a lot of... what I'm so appreciate of is that a lot of women my age and a little older are able to, there's so much freedom to be able to choose multiple different, multiple careers, you know, where someone might decide at 45, after having been a professor at university for a number of years, a number of decades perhaps, gosh, I want to become a massage therapist or I want to really explore my art or dance or...you know, it's just...it's such a wonderful sense of freedom and I think sometimes younger ...the younger generation misses that, that there are these...that there is this freedom that, you know, we have to choose this career track and stay in it. Don't you think?

DB: I'm not sure. I haven't really thought about it.

LH: Someone in their twenties might...I mean being in contact with students I keep saying to them, the statistics show you're gonna have seven different careers in your life so, you know...don't think this is forever.

DB: Full disciplines because the amount of time you've invested in becoming a lawyer or...

LH: Well, this retraining, you know, sort of building on what you have seems to be the trend more and more and I mean certainly you're evidence...you're a good example of that.

DB: Well, I suppose...but also after I did...after I finished law school I did...I felt ignorant, terribly ignorant, so I did a Master's in Economics here at NYU, starting from absolute nowhere, you know. I had never done...in South Africa there was no really, there was so little science and math that we had.

LH: Oh, especially for women too.

DB: And I had never done calculus even. I mean kids , you know, Quincy's age do calculus now, but I had...that was really awful. It was a very horrible discipline to learn these things.

LH: And what was your motivation for doing a Master's in Economics.

DB: Just to feel, to feel less ignorant. I had an inkling at Law School that, that anyway the secret of the way things work was economic rather than political and indeed it is and I think if there's one thing that made me a conservative it was doing a Master's in Economics. From the sort of lovely pie in the sky radical ideas that you could entertain, you think of yourself as just a political or a general social welfare type simply don't wash. You know, you know can't get very far with them I don't think. It's...

LH: And the war in the Balkans is such a great example of that, isn't it? That it's...

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DB: It's economic.

LH: The global economy and...rather than the...I mean the ...

DB: Oh, all sorts of things interlocking and...but, it...and I've forgotten. I in no way be able to do your regression analysis ~~??~~ and I can't even remember ...

LH: Thank God cause I wouldn't know anything about that.

DB: How to do calculus, but it was just putting oneself through that discipline...

LH: The rigor.

DB: That make you analyze things in a different way and certainly it made me analyze South Africa in a different way, sort of different way. The...impatient with a lot of the slogans of the ANC and, and the Left and, you know, worried about where they would lead and who knows? We still don't know I think.

LH: And again the, the, the political rhetoric isn't doing a lot whole for the economy.

DB: Absolutely not and in fact was counterproductive and I ... people hated me...I opposed sanctions. I really felt very strongly that this was setting back South Africa a generation and I think ...I still think so and yet everybody felt, feels that they had to boycott South Africa and they were doing good but, in fact, I feel...I ...it...there...going back every year as I did, there was a period when my mother's maid's children were studying to be airline pilots and one of them to be a doctor and those ambitions, the people moving into the middle class, were absolutely knocked out...for a loop by sanctions. Not so much the early kind of do-gooding sanctions but when the banks got into it, City Bank, and money stopped flowing and there was no money around for this generation of Blacks and Coloreds to move into the middle class, which I think would have...

LH: You know that's a really interesting perspective because, you know, that happened...that obviously went on for so many years and with the horrible back...economic backlog that the ANC took over anyway, in terms of, you know, the ...

DB: Of the differences...but you know that was...

LH: And then on top of that, the sanctions.

DB: But the, the, that disparity was moving certainly, definitely there was a big trajectory in the right direction at one point. It was thrown off track by the sanctions and it became a very unhappy position to take, to oppose sanctions, because everybody...

LH: Especially in New York.

Suzman DB: Or at the UN. Everybody thought that this was the word of God, but in fact I do think...and so did Helen ~~??~~. So did, so did some people whose mind I respect, who were more, much more in the struggle than me.

LH: So do you feel the same way about sanctions in other countries too? And again ???

DB: Yes and...pretty much. Yeah. It usually, you damage or destroy the people you are trying to help.

LH: The infrastructure.

DB: I'm certain that this is the case. I'm dubious about Iraq. It obviously is doing that. It's damaging the people you're trying to help. On the other hand, I don't know how else you could deal with Saddam. But it is high time for somebody to do a radical reexamination of sanctions as a weapon.

LH: Your next project.

DB: Because it is part of the UN's charter, that economic sanctions should be applied and every time it happens there's a, there's a disaster in the wake. It's difficult to know what else to do with Saddam though because Saddam could stop the sanctions right away if he just allowed UN inspectors to come in and stopped hiding his biological weapons and so on. That is a really, really sinister fellow, Saddam, by the way. I was in ...stationed in Baghdad for a time. And the atmosphere there was, in some ways, worse than the atmosphere in South Africa during the most paranoid period. I was never in a , in one of the underground groups in South Africa so I never really thought of myself as likely to be arrested at any minute, you know. But in Baghdad you certainly did and you were ...

LH: So you just felt that...

DB: Yeah. There was...it was very much looking over your shoulder in any gathering or just walking down the street, but then I suppose one stood out a bit more.

LH: Well, actually we stand out a little bit more now in South Africa now that things have changed so much.

DB: When were you last there?

LH: '97. Which is really gratifying, you know, that finally, for the first time in my experience of South Africa, apart from working in townships like I did, but you know you really get the sense that, yes we are the minority.

DB: Yeah. Although again it's more complex than that, isn't it? Because minority, yes, but numerically and ...but economically it's still...

LH: Economically. Yeah. Sure.

DB: And I don't like going to things like...I don't know. This is stupid but, I don't like going to things like the waterfront development there. It's ...and all the really flashy...

LH: Touristy.

DB: Touristy stuff. It's ...it just doesn't seem to...

LH: No. It's sort of like the Disneyland of South Africa. Yeah. It's really awful. I mean it's ...in some ways it's healthy economically, but at the same time it's just...

DB: Yeah.

LH: ??? about it. Well, I think it's...and it's also so American, sort of the worst of this culture being imported to that. You've mentioned the different people who you've lived with here, who've lived with you should I say, and obviously you have some wonderful relationships with people here. Would you consider them to be your family now?

DB: Absolutely. Yeah. The difficult part is they all, in the end, the reason they leave is they get married or they develop in another relationship and then it's difficult to stay in touch or harder, although, you know, I still do but unlike your own kids who feel a duty to go and see auntie or grandma or something like that, it doesn't quite happen. You have to... you much more consciously go and see each other. I had three weddings here with my young.

LH: Oh how wonderful.

DB: Yes. One of them was ~~??~~, my Black youngster that I had here for years. ~~??~~ who was an artist and still is and he met at Hunter College this gorgeous, glamorous young lady from Antigua who was a nightmare. Anyway, what can you do? You can't, you can't get people not to marry the wrong ~~??~~ the wrong person. We had a wedding and then we had a really lovely feast here and, sure enough, in the end it was a disaster ending with ~~??~~ having, by then, moved out. They both lived here for three, four, five years I think after they were married and Monique was, was the ultimate Jewish, American, Black Princess. She spent her time, didn't work, ~~??~~ had to work... she spent her painting her nails so they were this long and she couldn't honestly then do any washing up or any sort of housework at all and when I was work, according to a friend of mine who stayed, Monique just spent the whole day on the telephone.

LH: Oh how awful.

DB: Really. Whereas, ~~??~~ is such a dear, sweet guy from Soweto and this is a horrible story because, as I say, you do sort of lose touch. After they moved out of here they got their own place in Brooklyn and I didn't see him that much, although he did come around from time to time so he was...he was...he's a very hard worker. He works hard on his career and he was doing extremely well and until I got a call six in the morning or something at my desk from ~~??~~ saying can I help him. He's in jail and in Brooklyn and so, you know, I shot out there to...he had...Monique had a...they had parted, in fact, they had divorced unbeknownst to me. I didn't know. She had ~~been~~ accused...gone to the police and said he was stalking her and he had threatened her with a knife. This is ~~??~~. He was the sweetest kind of person, timid guy that you could ever see. It was in the wake of O. J. Simpson and the police here had been instructed to, to arrest first and then ask questions. Poor ~~??~~ spent the night in jail and charges were brought for threatening. There was a kind of letter in which the police...they wouldn't even show it to the evidence at first, the police indicated that in this he had threatened her, to cut her and when we finally got hold of this letter it was, nine tenths of it was a love letter saying, I'm really sorry we're breaking up. We've had such a...but it's been bad recently and so much so that I almost felt like cutting your face with the knife that you bought to kill me. It was a most convoluted thing, you know. And anyway we went to...I had to go to court four, five, six times, early in the morning and in the end it was, it was, ~~??~~ was completely exonerated and he was...But he didn't realize what a dangerous thing this was because he wanted a career in teaching art. He's doing so well and to have a arrest and for stalking or for threatening would not have probably done his career any good. Anyway, he's okay. Nothing on his record. Then Monique vanished off into the underground, thank God, but...and he's got a very nice girlfriend now but...This is a guy...I so admired ~~??~~...came from Soweto...Wanted to be an abstract artist and he...when we got him into Hunter and he very serious sort of student and, but he, the, the Black group at Hunter at that time taunted him for ~~what~~ seemed(?) to do political stuff with...~~cause he had~~ ~~from~~ fist clenched and, you know, symbolism and ~~??~~ black power. He would say ~~??~~, you know, he wants...the reason why he came here was to do abstract art...freedom of expression and so he stuck to his guns and he's now...he's sold...he sold one year, I think it was the year before, ten constructions or paintings to the Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C....made more than I did.

LH: Good heavens. Wow. Gosh, so he really is a family member of yours, isn't he?

DB: And a honey. I'm really proud of ~~??~~. *Rudzeni*

LH: That's a wonderful story end to the beginning part. Your parents...how...what...did they die in South Africa?

DB: Yes.

LH: So did you have to deal with any caring for them or ??? ???

DB: You know, father had a heart attack after he'd retired. He had a heart attack at 75 or so...that...in his sleep. Just gone. That was that. So, you know, we went back. My mother was the hard one. She stayed on in the house and did the gardening and did all the things that mumsies do and until she began to feel too frail and exposed because the house was very close to the road and they, the beginnings of all this fear had

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come. So she persuaded herself that she ought to go to one of the very nice older, kind of Whitehall Court, the places that... where older people...

LH: Oh, my grandmother lives there.

DB: And so did Diana's... Diana Russell's mother even though she moved. And it was very nice. It was an apartment and you could have your meals brought. I think you could have your meals brought up, but a very sort of caring, sweet African attendants and some of the... some of the other inhabitants would have driven me bats, but ??? ???, you know, she had her bridge ??? and these things, but without all these responsibilities, without having to do the garden and to run the house she began to deteriorate. I don't know what the lesson of that is, you know, that you should... I mean I know from my age now I've... after a couple of heavy duty gardening days, I mean I'm out for the count but at the same time I'm glad to do it. She ...both my parents had been heavy smokers, as was I and both died in the end of nonsmoking related things I think, but mom did get emphysema towards the end and then she got lymphoma and that was a horrible period of several years where the person who handled her affairs, he said, cause I was working very full time and huge, huge responsibilities and it gets quite expensive to live there. And he said, look, I'll call you when it's time for you to come and he did. He called me. She's in ~~22~~ ^{care} care. So I went to see her. Of course I got then this ~~infinite~~ ^{long} flight ~~???~~ ^{flight} and got straight off the plane, up to ~~22~~ ²² to see her. There she was, obviously about to expire and I held her in my arms and she sat and she said, oh, you know, I hate it here. You get me out of this, you know. So I did. I got her out and put her back...

Snack Schuster

LH: Don't tell me she lived another five years or something?

DB: Yeah. But there were several more of these things. She...I arranged for a very, terribly nice...absolutely darling, loving day nurse and night nurse and a weekend nurse, replacing those and she and I stayed with her for quite awhile and after awhile she was up and she was walking around and she was doing fine. So I went back to New York and then again Ken Ryan called and said you better come out and ~~things didn't go~~ ^{and she} once again, you know, put your arms ~~right up~~ ^{up} up she gets and that was a really wrenching business because... while she was in that condition... because she was lonely and didn't have...her biggest reproach me always was I so envy ~~???~~ ^{Wendy} Wendy lives in the same block, you know, because both my brother and I are in different countries. Anyway, she did ...

LH: Well, that got your attention. Got you back home.

DB: She did it, I think, three or four times. I flew out at terrific speed and ready to bury her and, and up she picked. Finally, she went and thank God both ~~??~~ ^{and} and I were there and had, had an amazing ten days talking everything out with her. It was, it was amazing. And thank God we did that and she said to me...

LH: Boy that was a gift.

Cheetah's

DB: At...her mother went recently...and she said to me she remembered me saying something to her about guilt and I couldn't recognize...I am sure it wasn't me because I never...guilt is not part of my vocabulary. I don't even think in those terms, but I'm trying to think what on earth could she have in mind. What I think it was is that, I was telling Cheetah about this gift of having had ten days of open talking to mom. She was lucid to the, ~~to the first~~ ^{to the end} to the end. The day before ~~it~~ ^{it} it. But, it, it...that's a hard one.

LH: My father actually committed suicide when I was seventeen...

DB: Oh my God.

LH: In '72.

DB: Why?

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LH: Oh, a number of reasons, mostly economic and I don't know. That's, you know, obviously I've wondered that ??? for many years, why.

DB: Do you know ^{Dawn} Zane, cause her father did too?

LH: No. No. I think it was a combination of factors and I do think that he was suffering with clinical, you know, clinical depression and, you know, in those days in South Africa, in the early seventies they just didn't know what was, you know, what might have...

DB: Here too. To this day.

LH: And he was working for an American company and he'd just been laid off. Black and Decker actually. He was the CEO for the whole of Southern Africa and I think that...he was a very proud man, self-made man and, you know, he just couldn't stand the humiliation I think. But my mom I still alive and she's now 74, very...

DB: Babies.

LH: Yeah, she's very dynamic. She's coming to visit at the end of the year but, you know, I do certainly, being in this field, in gerontology, I'm very aware of many of my friends dealing with their parents and what the best decisions are and obviously everybody says...

(Russell)
DB: Diana says that her mother is still with us, which is amazing to me. She's in her 90's. She was a good friend of my mom's, very close friend. Mother's now 91 and pretty frail and ~~just~~ planning a trip in November to go and see her. Diana and I have spoken often about this kind of tension between daughter Wendy living one block away and neither of us do and although Diana is not nearly so badly off as I was cause they were, how many, five, six Russell children all living in South Africa. So it's not all on her shoulders. ~~What a sweetheart.~~

LH: Well, I have two brothers living in Cape Town and one in Durban, but, you know, whenever they...whenever anything happens they always call me and say, it's your turn and I think that...(phone rings)

DB: Hang on. But ...say ten years or so, my UN career, I worked 18 hours a day. I really worked terribly hard and dropped out of social life completely and I lost an awful lot of these contacts that used to be, but that obviously something that happens after awhile. It's, it's ...you have to really make much more of an effort to, to, to invite people or to see them or to go out with them. It's not just the way one was as one was younger.

LH: Yeah. I've certainly noticed that for myself too. Well, being in a Ph.D. program and working full time, I certainly treasure the time that I do have to spend with Barry...

DB: Then do you have time to...

END OF TAPE

LH: Yeah. I think what I've found though too is, and again I think this is the experience of being in the doctoral program, which I'm doing through a university, through the Union Institute out of Cincinnati, Ohio, so it's not even in Charlotte, is that my community is expanded and also doing this research, not in a place where I am living, in a place other than the place I'm living, my frame of reference has changed over the last three years...three and a half years. Whereas, prior to that I was very much involved in my local community, you know, doing various...working on different committees and working on campaigns and...

DB: Political campaigns?

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LH: Harvey Gantt campaign when he was running against Jesse Helms and unfortunately didn't win and just various things that I've been...I think it's part of my recreation of needing to recreate home for myself, to feel very much part of my local community and I really miss that since being in the doctoral program, even though I'm loving an expanded community, but it's a different...

DB: You teach obviously in a university right there so that is a huge community.

LH: Yeah. Oh yeah. But, you know, also at, actually it's at the community college level that I teach. I sort of moved from social work administration to teaching, so it's a relatively new career for me but we're also segregated in our own little disciplines and the only time we cross paths with other people is on committees or whatever, of course. But yeah, it is a community. Definitely. ??? ???

DB: My David is... his Ph.D. is on transgender people. So this is an entirely new group of people that I wouldn't dream of ever having encountered before. It's hilarious. People had started coming here and they were Richard or James or something and now they're Cindy or, or...

LH: How fascinating.

DB: Or Celine or something. I said...the ones that had actually gone through the...or Donna...Donna, Donna works for the New York Times. She's an editor of the New York Times and, and, and went through the...

LH: And was Don or something?

DB: Yes. David or something I think. And we had an amazing Valentine's party this year. I think we had about a hundred and fifty, two hundred people here. First of all, David's sociology or anthropology cohort, his group, who ??? ??? and, but then there was a whole group that ...transgender people, the Cindys and the ... who were gorgeous, sharing a lot of ??? and dancing and marvelous lipstick and ??? and things and really enjoyed themselves. Then there were the, the cross dressers. It's another entire group. Many of them came with their husbands, with their wives. Sorry. They tended to have bouffant hair and lots of eye shadow and false eyelashes and very masculine legs, you know, and high heels and looking for all the world like a certain, Southern women of a certain age, you know. There was a ??? for these cross dressers. I was most intrigued by this. In fact, I was doing things in the oven with a group of cross-dressers who were talking about their, their war experiences, you know. And they were so... ??? in Congress(?) and then are, there's a group of others in between. Transvestites are very different from cross dressers, but many of them absolutely ...oh the most intriguing ones were the ones...the first...the very first person that arrived was a shortish man with a beard and a voice and all of that kind of thing and he came and chatted to me as I was trying to make something in the kitchen and afterwards I learned that this was a woman who'd become a man and they could...you know, once they've had the hormone treatment they grow beards and their voices change. There was another one called Ed who's been here before. Ed, Ed is the most...I can't say it for sure anymore, whether somebody is a man or a woman, having now seen all ????. Something I would thought as absolutely certain, you know, before these.

LH: Blurred boundaries.

DB: Right. But...cause Ed is, Ed has finally decided to go through the whole ~~is~~ surgery, but Ed's sexuality would change from week to week and some weeks Ed was a woman, other weeks Ed was a...and but it was internal. Some of these hormones were dominant. These ones were... She's now decided to go the whole hog and have the...in fact the night of the Valentine's party she just very recently just had the hysterectomy which is the first stage of the operation, but it's not nearly so satisfactory for the ...the woman to man one as it is for the male to female cause they have to...??? ???...

LH: More augmentation ...

DB: Right.

wore jeans & on 1

know they went to hair dresser to get to ask to be in the hab crimes categorized

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LH: Yeah, there's a professor at our university who's...she's on faculty. She's ...well this is a very common model of a lesbian couple. She's this sort of real femme and then she is in a relationship with someone who considers herself transgender and is very...is a woman, but is ...presents herself as a man, very much so and they are in this lesbian relationship and she's actually written a lot...her partner has written a book called Stone Butch Blues, which is sort of become one of the doctrines of the transgender movement, but it is a fascinating example of living in between, isn't it? The woman who is transcribing this...these interviews is gonna think now how does this relate to all the other interviews who've been talking about...

DB: When David started with this I thought it the most exotic topic. Now it's only become the flavor of the month. There's transgenders and ??? all over the place.

LH: And where have they been all this time?

Washington D.C.

DB: Goodness knows. They go to, in fact, Dave said he's missing this years ~~??~~ because he's too busy. He's got...he's doing...he's writing up his dissertation with all the field research. But for quite a few years he and his people have been going to Washington and I ...what courage it must take to go into Jesse Helms dressed as a woman, you know, if you're a man. They all do. They are demanding equal rights for transgender people cause it's true that the, all the laws are couched(?) in terms of Blacks and gays ???, no discrimination against whatever it is, race, creed, color or sexual orientation. But not against people who have changed their sexual orientation.

LH: There was a man in Charlotte who, who went through the whole change, all the surgery and everything and she was talking about how, what a nightmare it was legally because she was a father and then became a mother...

DB: ??? ??? several of them are...Several of the regulars here are, were fathers and are now moms or something. It must be...I haven't really thought it through, the legal ramifications.

LH: And also the impact it has on the children must be quite interesting too.

DB: Cindy's children seem to be very cool about it. Cindy ??? ??? ???.

LH: Well, that's actually interesting cause that's what this person's child said at one point when somebody at the school was teasing him about it and he said that it's still the same person who I'm relating to. I still feel loved in the same way.

DB: Did you happen to have...it's on the table there and I marked it for David to look at...a review of Germaine Greer's new, new book.

LH: No. No, but I did see it in the Times a couple of weeks ago.

DB: You saw...oh...this is yesterday was I thought...

LH: Oh yesterday?

DB: More recently this review. It actually horrified because I knew Germaine Greer in the olden days when we were all ~~sitting~~ in this feminist course together and feminist sort of, or conscious feminism and ??? in this book she's all for clitorodectomy. I mean she says don't, you know, mess with it and...I, it's in the review, unless ...we should go cut the Times. He's got it wrong and sort of turned against a lot of the feminist precepts and principles. She's a...what a strange lady she was.

?
?

LH: Really?

DB: I have a book at the barn called Three or Five Difficult Women, and she's one of them.

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LH: And who are the others?

DB: I don't remember.

LH: Let me get my little interview questions while we're sitting here. It's so wonderful. I keep forgetting that we're doing this. Which hopefully you are forgetting too.

DB: Absolutely.

LH: Oh good. I love the sound of that dove. I'm so pleased I've got it on tape. I can just listen to it in the background.

DB: Those are geriatric doves.

LH: Well, they sound pretty good.

DB: They do. Yeah.

LH: We've sort of talked around this, but can you just talk to me a little bit about the...when you left South Africa, the circumstances, the political circumstances that were occurring at the time you originally left.

DB: Boy. That's a long time ago. There was apartheid was getting more and more savage. I worked on the political campaign of the Liberal Party of those days. Gerald Gordon was running for Parliament. Patrick Duncan was a friend. We were involved in that. Very much...

(Someone enters.)

I haven't been down sweetie.

Very much against my father...that used to enrage my father. He would actually come and yank the phone out of the wall and it...I just sort of more and more began to realize that I was a fish out of water and wasn't...a lot of my friends of those days, or the people that I knew, I later learned were members of the Communist Party and I was so naive I didn't know that they recruiting(?) somebody who was ??? friend with me ??? ???, who was...I just didn't know and I thought how clever they were. They all knew exactly what they were doing and how to analyze things and I was just muddling around. Maggie and I were, Maggie ??? Roberts ??? and I were political in student politics and we were in ??? and at the time when it was, you know, it was the beginning of a lot of arrests of ??? people and so on, but I was, I was naive. I really was. I didn't...I didn't understand that some of these arguments that they gave were simply party line(?). I remember being quite upset by, who was it, ??? Katz or one of the political, one of the people that I subsequently known who were communists. Came back to my room and found him going through my mail and ...

NUSAS

LH: Oh my God.

DB: It was okay to do this if you were Communist Party. You didn't have personal loyalties. You were only...

LH: ... I'm sorry. This is distracting I know.

DB: Okay. That sort of camera...yours is a beauty though. It's a silver one.

LH: Well, it's one of those idiot cameras. I don't know anything about photography so I just press and ...

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DB: I have a black one like that, Olympus. But they...he...I was out of my depth I think. Really. I was not a communist. I wasn't sort of hard core ideology. I felt very inferior because I wasn't, you know. I just sort of thought that this is the way the government was acting was not kind and not nice and was not sensible, but I didn't have an ideology to take its place and then also the ...my growing loggerheads with my family and so off I went. I went to Egypt and very...took a job as a nanny and...

LH: And so this was...

DB: Initially. That was back in the fifties.

LH: So this was the time when all of these laws were being implemented...

DB: Sorry, you know, I think I've got the order wrong. I think the nanny job was even...it can't be earlier and...yes, they were and, and, but nobody laid a finger on me in those days. It was just there was a feeling of dislocation and things were going on I didn't understand. I didn't have the equipment to analyze the ideologically and a lot of the people I knew did and yet a lot of the other people I knew, schoolmates, were all getting married and caring a lot about who was going to what ??? ??? ??? I just wasn't at home in this world, but I also feel that I did need a career and that was so odd in those ...so...

LH: David, isn't this a great way to do a Ph.D.?

David: What's that?

LH: Isn't this a wonderful way to do a Ph.D.?

David: Is that what you're doing?

LH: Yeah.

David: Oh. In what?

LH: Gerontological Studies.

David: Oh and what's your focus? What's your...

LH: I'm interviewing women like Diana who have been living here as...in self imposed or political exile from South Africa and looking at the whole issue of aging cross culturally.

David: I can't think of Diana ??? gerontology.

LH: I know.

DB: I can't either.

LH: I sort of feel like I'm insulting her by saying that.

DB: It took me aback for a bit, but...

LH: Well, isn't that...isn't she a wonderful example of...

David: ???

LH: Of how it can be done.

David: ??? ??? and she has many.

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DB: Bless you David.

LH: So she was telling me a little bit about your doctoral work.

DB: I was telling her about your Valentine's Party.

David: Oh, right. Yeah. Yeah, it's very interesting and actually most of the people that I work with, the populations I work don't have the chance to get ~~???~~ ~~???~~ ~~???~~ ~~???~~. *Not*.

DB: Do a lot of them die young?

David: Most people are killed. No motive. A lot of people, because of ~~???~~ *prejudices*.

LH: Surgery? What about the surgeries? No.

David: That sort of, that sort of ~~???~~ cause of death, but a lot of people who...one of the reasons...one of the fallouts of the social program director ~~???~~ ~~???~~ ~~???~~ is that many of them, even those with good jobs like Tony, who you met, who's a scientist had to resort to sex work.

LH: What a wonderful thing to be able to say. There are not many people on the planet who can.

DB: It may not last very long, touch wood.

LH: I'll call you tomorrow.

DB: Okay. But, you know, I have seven wonderful cats and a lovely home, I think, to me it's lovely and live with terribly nice people and...

LH: Well, Diana, you create that because you're interested in the world.

DB: Well, thank you.

LH: You know you're interested what...

Rudzi
DB: I didn't create David. David came...he...I didn't even look for these people. They find me somehow. Joy is an absolute miracle too. She's, as I say, doing so...I'm so proud of both of them, as I was of ~~???~~. As I was of Jerry. As I was of ~~???~~ *John*...Sometimes went a little bit astray. But so on...you know, it's...and wonderful thing is if other people's children come to live with you in some cases with all their problems. It's not your responsibility and you have the pride of feeling that you've helped them along the way, but if they go wrong it's not...

LH: It's not your responsibility. Well, also you're not caught in that dynamic.

DB: Right. Not that any have gone wrong, but ~~???~~ *John* has sometimes been a bit naughty.

LH: Back to our questions.

DB: Oh sorry. When I left South Africa, gosh it's such a long time ago, but it was, it was the early days of horrible, ~~???~~ *depressive* rigid apartheid. So strange. So ...

LH: So would you say that your first memory of becoming politically involved was with ~~???~~ or were you...

DB: Yes. I would say and very much under the influence of Maggie Roberts, my best friend. I felt like such a dumkauf(?), you know, next to her she was so sophisticated.

dumkauf

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LH: Now tell me about her. Tell me a little bit about her.

DB: Oh, Maggie, is now Maggie ^{Le Gum} ~~???~~, married to Colin ^{Le Gum} ~~???~~, the great guru of Africa ~~???~~ and she was ...her father ~~???~~ Roberts Construction, was Roberts Construction, ~~???~~. Rich as ~~???~~. Her mother was Peggy Roberts who left him and the children to run away with the then leader of the Labor Party, Tom ~~???~~. So Maggie, as an infant, grew up handing out leaflets in the street with her ~~three~~ sisters ~~???~~ ^{Or borne} ~~???~~ she...whereas I ...we didn't even brush up against politics in my house...in my neck of the woods and Maggie was very bright and very committed and she did her thesis, her undergraduate thesis on Marx and so...I couldn't even read Marx. I found it difficult, but we were, we did adventurous things together when at Rhodes. That's where we met. We went...decided to go and confront ~~???~~ and tell him about the error of his ways and I look back on this...I'm horrified...~~???~~ ^{Back because} we had an ancient jalopy and we decided because it's ~~???~~ we had better go in full evening dress so we went, in those days you did...we drove across miles and miles of dusty road. ~~???~~ was speaking in some little ~~???~~ in the eastern Cape and we sat there...it was all in Afrikaans and there were these, these very sort of dour people and at the end of his speech Maggie got up...she had all the courage and she said I have a couple of questions I'd like to ask you and he said, oh, are there speakers in the audience. If I'd known I would have had a translator. He was like everybody's sweet uncle and daddy, you know. And come up, come up here, so Maggie went up to the stage and said I want to ask you some questions. Could you give me straight answers? He was completely disarming and I thought about issue he said ~~???~~ I think that perhaps we have got a different approach and we went ...we left, you know, but had it happened, had we not been in full evening dress and had a few years later, we probably would have been shot by his bodyguards for jumping up and...

LH: Absolutely. God.

DB: That was very long ago. I mean we got into those kinds of scraps together in those days and it was very sort of ~~???~~ because Maggie and her mother's friends all, you know, ~~???~~ kind of left wingers would analyze things with us and I was naive. I really was. Maggie now back in South Africa, having been banned. She was banned for a long time, both she and Colin. They wrote a book called Sanctions Against South Africa. They advocated sanctions. At a certain point we began to part company ideologically, although now we're chums again.

LH: Yeah, I was gonna say has that affected your relationship or...

DB: No. Absolutely not because we had a...those kind of incredibly close relationships that you form at college. You don't ever since, you know, afterwards.

LH: Well, also you have such a history with each other.

DB: Yes. Really we did. We had...

LH: Gosh. How wonderful.

DB: Yeah. Sometimes...wake up with a bit of a ^{shudder at} ~~shadow~~ the thought of jumping onto the stage with ~~???~~ because later people did that and did get shot or got taken away. Oh, that's Bill, Joy's boyfriend, the photographer.

LH: Yeah. Absolutely. How are you doing on time, by the way?

DB: I'm fine cause I'm not going to work tonight.

LH: So you've been back and forth, you said.

DB: I guess...well, this is the wonderful thing about the UN is you get paid home leave every two years so I went back, sent by the UN every two years and that was why I was able to go in and out and make the films and do that. I was ...but it was a ...being in two worlds because at the UN I was ...since I was not prepared to be so, you know, doctrinaire(?), anti...there are all sorts of good people, not all Whites

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are so vicious and not all Blacks are saints, you know, so that sort of thing. At the UN I was regarded with as dubious, but I did these three excellent films which got the UN a lot of merit and, but in South Africa I worked for the UN which was a no no, you know. The UN was the enemy of all and then when my passport was withdrawn and I was quite a few years with no passport, the UN ... I challenged the UN. I was there on UN business making these films ??? You ought to have come in and rescued me. You ought to have protested as part of...they didn't so this is a funny thing that happened. This is a long, later part of the story, but the...I tried to get some other passport because it was so inconvenient not to have a passport. You couldn't travel and I tried America. I obviously couldn't. I tried British, my, my ancestors, my mother's side. In the end I got an Irish passport but it took three years. It took many, many years of scouring graveyards and so and finding ancestors and then finding documents and things like that. Finally I got, yippee, I got an Irish passport at which point I got a cable for a ...yeah, from *Helen and Susan* and saying Connie ??? agreed to restore your passport, so I had a South African passport again, back. Yippee. Wonderful. And that lasted for I don't know how long. It was, I'd say, five or so year passport tenure(?). It expired, *since* after the revolution, it expired so I went to the South African consulate to renew it and they ask you have you got any other passports and I truthfully said yes. I had an Irish passport and they said oh we can't renew your South African passport. The new government said so. I said this is outrageous. I lost the...I got the other passport only because ...

LH: Right. But I thought that there was a provision for dual citizenship for those people who were...

DB: Absolutely not. And so I...in fact, *Fink Hagon* was also caught in the same...

LH: I'm going to take a picture of you. Just keep talking. With your little background in the...

DB: And I had to, to make a formal appeal to retain my South African citizenship. Fortunately, one of the people that I'd been filming...

LH: That's appalling.

DB: When the passport...was *withdrawn* and I am a great fan of ??? and everybody else hates him, but I ... *Sagolshe* was sweet to me and his mother, Princess, what's her name, ???, was sweet to me and his sister...his wife...in the days when he was, you know, out of favor, very much out of favor and so I remain loyal to anyone who's been nice to me until I learn to the contrary. ??? was by then the Minister of the Interior and I didn't want to ask him to help me, but I did write and had make a formal appeal and happily I had found all that correspondence from my passport was withdrawn and I had to write and say why was it withdrawn. You are an enemy of the people ??? and we think you're a threat to state security and me writing back saying what way, you know, what have I done and so and finally Helen ??? saying to me, Connie ??? has agreed...Helen ??? representation said I've known Diana. She is a decent person and she is doing everything right and Helen ??? saying Connie ??? has agreed to restore your passport so I had all that stuff. Thank goodness I kept it and in the end the South Africans, not only allowed...gave me my South African citizenship back but gave me a letter saying I could hold dual nationality, but a lot of people apparently, that was then...I'm not sure how long...the law keeps changing because a lot of people were in the same predicament. They'd got other passports during those years. I don't know what the situation is now. Do you know?

LH: Well, I know that if you, if you can prove that your passport, that you, you sought citizenship from another country because you, your own South African...

DB: But, you know, that was jolly difficult to prove because that's...but, and ??? but I think it was partly because of my huge letter writing business that that came through because ??? who is Mandela's advisor was also...cause ??? always maintained British nationality, as did many of the *goddam* radicals in South Africa, you know. Some of the most radical of the...

LH: The only person I know of who's a really dear friend of mine who traveled on a UN refugee document because his passport was removed and then was forced to take out US citizenship because...

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DB: As a refugee because it's hard to get US citizenship...

LH: And it was time for...he wanted to go back to South Africa for a year on a Fulbright.

DB: Who was that?

LH: ??? ???. Do you know him?

DB: No.

LH: He's lived in...he lived in Charlotte for a number of years and he knows of you is what, he does know of you.

DB: Maybe I do, you know, this is old age. You forget. I know lots of people ??? ???

LH: Yeah. That's quite a prominent name. But no he was...

DB: ??? ??? ??? He's back. He's ambassador ???

LH: Right. But he and ??? ???...okay...so he was very...he and ??? are very close friends and ??? for a number of years was the chairperson for the ??? for A Free South Africa in Boston. I'm sure you would know him.

DB: Yes. I'm sure.

LH: Anyway, he held dual citizenship for awhile and then relinquished his American citizenship when he went back.

DB: With the permission of the South African government?

LH: Yeah.

DB: I'm just worrying now that I've lost this ??? because...it's absolutely a prize thing to have, permission from Mandela saying that you could hold dual nationality and it's required in a lot of ...

LH: Yeah. I certainly don't think it's ...it's...

DB: Cause you know what happened...virtually all the...certainly Whites who left South Africa and probably a good many of the Blacks who were able to get out came here and had to exaggerate their antiapartheid credentials. It was part...like ~~??~~ as I was telling you...but he an artist...he wants to be an abstract artist but all his peer group here wanted him to do...

LH: That's another good point.

DB: To do revolutionary art and teeth and bones and clenched fists and so on...

LH: Well, you know, of course now nobody supported apartheid and when you go back to South African nobody supported it.

DB: Which it's part of it is the whole sort of layers of hypocrisy. You know, ??? on top of these things.

LH: I know I got so incensed with my mother once. We were watching one of the TRC hearings and, during the latter part of '97 there was some really interesting...Winnie Mandela's case for one thing was being...

DB: Boy, did you see that? Wow.

LH: Yeah.

DB: What drama. What drama.

LH: Absolutely and anyway we were watching some of it one evening and she said 'you know, Lyndall, I had no idea that this was going on' and I looked at her and I said 'mom, when I was living here I was telling you that this was going on. How can you possibly claim not to know that this was... not to have known this was going on' and it just incensed me.

DB: ^{Fmk} ~~???~~ was the ...??? Was the lawyer for, did Cheetah tell you that business... was the first who told me from the horses' mouth that Winnie had been actively involved in the murder of this kid, you know. And this I was so amazed because ^{Fmk} ~~???~~ I thought was such a strong ANC person. Oddly enough...

LH: What an awful set of circumstances.

DB: And...but ^{Fmk} Maggie, back you know ???, ^{Fmk} Maggie, my dear friend Maggie was... is a terrific fan of Winnie Mandela. I don't even dare mention her name now. I don't know what Maggie's going to say because is it possible... she probably is still a fan of Winnie's. ^{Fmk} Maggie was so radical. The close... very, very close friendship we have is ... rests on... we skirt around political issues I think. We have different... just different analyses.

LH: Yeah. Gosh.

DB: But I wonder... there are other friendships that I have had in South Africa where you... the political nuances is so ??? or so rigid that you don't dare to mention a lot of things, you know, but you can remain close friends.

LH: Yeah. Yeah. I mean there is some... I think it's the... do you think it's got something to do with common heritage somehow?

DB: I do.

LH: It supercedes...

DB: I think because it certainly... I would say that growing up in South Africa, you grow up even if you're not, you're politically naïve as I was, you grow up with a knowledge that the world is very, very complicated, which you don't have so much when you are growing up in America, I think, or England. Maybe you do now as the world has become more complicated, but there's... there seemed to me to be... left South Africa, we went to England and then came to this country with a sense of extraordinarily number of nuances of human behavior and life and it was awfully difficult to make a doctrinaire statement one way or the other. You know...

LH: You know that's interesting articulating it in that way because certainly what I've noticed in interviewing the women I've been interviewing so far and my own experience is that we have... and I don't attribute this to only South Africans of course, but there does seem to be a common denominator which is this, this quite sophisticated level of critical analysis, where we don't just take something as read, you know, that this is... where we are willing to question a lot more perhaps than ...

DB: I think so, but then, you know, again I think it's partly because the women that I know from South Africa are very special and wonderful women and I don't know if it's a sort of ??? in ??? ???, but I have... every now and then I meet a South African woman as I am meeting you now and I think gosh these are the best that there is, these these kind of ???...

LH: Well thank you. That's nice of you to say.

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DB: No, but there are many and I ...you don't see them every day but these, this is the kind of person that are very special, I think. I find that.

LH: Well, that's why I feel so blessed doing this work because, you know, I'm having these kinds of interactions with women like yourself who, you know, have contributed in so many ways...are so modest at the same time. (telephone rings)

Well, one of the questions that I, that I, that I ask and I don't know whether it applies to you actually, but I'll ask it anyway. Can you identify a specific day when you said now I can go back to South Africa?

DB: No because I've been going back all along. I was never ^{P.N.Q.}...what's it called...as Maggie ??? ??? ??? never...Maggie and Colin were both dramatically declared persona non grata but I never was. I was ...I worked for the UN. I was...that was my job required me to be anti apartheid and ...

LH: So you were in a really unique set of circumstances in some ways, as you say you were...

DB: Yeah, because if you went to South Africa and said at the airport that you worked for the UN they'd say ???, you know, the dreadful...they're so against us. But if you went to the UN and said I'm from South Africa...my God you're a White South African fascist. One of the most interesting South African women that worked for the UN in those days is Dawn Zane and if you haven't got her down your list...I don't know where she is. I've lost touch with her. She was Dawn ~~Cohen~~ ^{Cohen}, was it? Or...I think Cohen and then she married this really glamorous Malaysian king or something, ambassador, and she became Dawn Zane. She became a terrifically famous person around the place. She started the African Arts Fund which is what brought ~~her~~ ^{him} over. They finance South African artists to come out...paid their fares or something like that and she got ??? his nest here and he lived with me and she, she was tremendous. She was a terrific fundraiser and a marvelous person and her father committed suicide in the last I'd say ten years. I don't know. She, but she was not able to go back for a very long time and I think she went back for this occasion, but she's, she came up to ^{my house}...when her husband left her she came up and stayed with me at the barn for a bit and she was just devastated. She...he ~~chucked~~ ^{chucked} her over. She said he said it's in this stage of history it's too embarrassing for me, got a political agenda to have a Jewish wife, a Muslim after all, so he just dropped her and they had some children and Dawn was just suicidal and she cried the whole weekend. She bawled just awful.

LH: Oh my God. She could be benefiting from your efforts ???

DB: I'm sure she...then she found ^{he had} ~~he~~ got cancer. I don't know, but I've lost touch with her. I don't know. I wonder if she's in the...I haven't even thought of looking for her in the phone book, but there is another very interesting South African...

LH: Do you think she might have gone back?

DB: No. I don't think so. I think she lived here. Let's look in the phone book. ??? ??? It's somebody that you might be interested in. She loves ??? ??? ???. She also loves being ???. The ambassador's wife and being ...wielding power and apparently he was terrifically glamorous and he died. He, you know, God wins out in the end, ~~strike~~ ^{strikes} him down. But I don't...I have not seen her since, since, or soon after that weekend at, in Warwick where she was crying her eyes out.

LH: How long ago was that?

DB: Quite a while cause what I used that I made her do, I had frequently did, when somebody was in a bad way, I'd have them sit down and write a five year plan, so we spent two days together on Dawn's five year plan and the way you did it was to...what am I good at. What am I bad at? She just didn't know what was going to happen to her life. Her husband had everything...had vanished and, so she's not ???, ??? ??? ??? so...this is Bill.

LH Hi Bill.

DB: But, so either she's not here or she's calling herself something else.

LH: Maybe she got remarried to some other exotic person.

DB: Maybe she did. Ask around if you meet other South Africans because, particularly in the arts...

LH: Her name has not come up at all, which is interesting.

DB: The art community, who she...her ??? ??? ??? (walking away).

LH: I should write her name down actually.

DB: She was ???...I can't remember if she's really Dawn Cohen or one of the ...the most common Jewish names.

LH: I think ??? ???.

DB: She was a terrific fundraiser and she, she made, she..oh that's another one ...people who stayed here. Wendy came over, a young White South African dancer. The African Arts Fund decided they ought to benefit some other than Blacks, you know, so Wendy came over as a, a kind of avant garde dancer and she stayed here for awhile, but she's gone on to pretty much fame and fortune. She was...Wendy ~~she~~, but she's, she's now not dancing but she's singing and appearing in cabarets and so on. *Newstadt*

LH: Oh really? How wonderful.

DB: With a strong South African accent.

LH: Well...

DB: So I am not...I'm rambling like anything.

LH: Oh, this is how I love the interviews to happen because it's so much more real than the contrived, you know, question/answer thing. But there is...this is the segment where I'm going into...of the interview which is going into images of aging.

DB: Really got to summon something.(?)

LH: What I said in my description was that I, you know, that I had really just been drawn to a lot of these wonderfully positive images of aging that, that were sort of offered to me as a community organizer in the, first of all, in the Indian...well, my grandmother first of all, who I was named after. Her name was Lyndall and she had a wonderful, very, I suppose one would say, eccentric, but I think just fabulously individualistic and creative mother who was an artist and loved all of Shriner's work and decided to call her daughter after...

DB: Yes. Of course.

LH: The woman ??? and so I was named after my grandmother and so she was, she was my first, one of my first, my earliest memories of just a wonderfully positive image of aging and then working in an Indian township outside of Johannesburg I worked shoulder to shoulder literally with, with a number of older Indian women who actually had worked with Mahatma Gandhi and just were just such a wonderful inspiration and I noticed...

DB: Well, though he was not very nice to women actually.

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LH: No. No. Actually surprisingly enough and yet these women, of course, because they were involved in the passive resistance movement in South Africa just...

DB: They were blind to the fact that he was wretched to his wife ^{lastuba} ~~???~~. Dreadful to her. Yeah.

LH: And his daughter.

DB: And his daughter. Yeah. Horrible man. I don't like Gandhi at all. Anyway.

LH: But these women were just fabulous and were just such stalwarts and such, such strong women and there was some sort of sense that I, that I was left with that even in the suppressive system and even in the oppressive political system, but also the oppressive societal, cultural system, at some point, there was a point at which these women and their lives superceded the restrictions of the culture...that as older women they seemed to command respect and freedom on some level, which was odd because it is such a patriarchal culture anyway and yet there was also this matriarchal piece to it, where as older women they, they commanded an enormous amount of respect and had a lot of say in the community, in community matters and had quite a lot of power in the structure of community organizations, etc., and made an enormous amount of difference and so, anyway, those images have stayed with me and I'm ...and the question that I'm eventually getting to here is are there positive images of aging that you have transported with you from South Africa?

DB: From South Africa? I'm, I'm wondering. You know, honestly I just can't think of myself as aged, you know, or aging. It's...I know it's happening but I just don't...it's not something I wake up with every day and say my God what am I going to do. I'm about to become decrepit with arthritis and so, so I don't, perhaps identify myself with that, but I...the...my grandmother, my English grandmother has sort of been an absolutely remarkable person. She was ...it all skipped a generation I think. Grandmother became a nurse in Victorian England and she was in, in the ~~???~~ War and in the siege of ~~???~~ and the siege of Ladysmith. She was a frontline nurse. In the Vietnam War in America, you know, generations later they didn't send women to the front line and granny was. She was in Ladysmith and in the siege of ~~???~~ was a really major siege. They were eating rats fried in train oil and stuff like that. She was an incredibly independent. An amazing woman and she met grandpa during the siege. Grandpa sort of led the siege of ~~???~~. He came...he was galloping up on his horse and he led ~~???~~ whoever it was, you know, and that's where they met and this is they. This is them. ~~???~~ ~~???~~ (walking away). In the Kalahari, 1902, and grandpa took granny off to his farm. Hafekin

LH: Oh, what an absolutely wonderful photograph.

DB: And in the Kalahari, ~~not~~ having tea, but their drawn(~~??~~) thread table cloth, but there he is reading something. The mail came once a year, you know, once every six months or so. Here he is. He's reading, assiduously reading a newspaper or something, while she's pouring.

LH: This is the most wonderful...

DB: Isn't it wonderful? And...that was the mud home, the home that they lived in, old ~~closer~~ made of mud and ...

LH: What a handsome couple.

DB: Aren't they gorgeous? And ...

LH: That's ~~???~~ what a fabulous ~~???~~ keepsake.

DB: ~~???~~ ~~???~~ Really, really dishy.

LH: Oh yeah. What a wonderful keepsake.

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DB: Her ...all ...daughters, my mom and her sisters were the opposite of these kind of pioneering ladies. I mean mom would never be in a war zone. Mom ended up, you know, she did the whole housewife ??? She did the arranging flowers for the church and so did all her sisters, you know, and they didn't ever, none of them ever went into higher education, although Mom said she would have liked to have been a doctor. She would have been good. They receded. They were not the pioneers as grandma...as grandmother was and then our generation perhaps has to pick up and sort of...it leaps a generation.

LH: I've often thought that too. My experience too...my grandmother, I'm very much like my grandmother and I'm not at all like my mother and...yeah, it's interesting. What a fabulous role model.

DB: And in retrospect I think of what granny did and living on ~~Glover~~ ^{Smous} on the farm in the Kalahari where you had to...not, you had a ~~shop~~ that came around once a year or twice a year or something where you could buy things like matches or sugar, you know, and tea and the rest of the time you made it all yourself. You made your own soap, you made your own, obviously, clothes, you made your own furniture. You ...and there she was all alone as a little English bride who had, after all, been through the siege of Ladysmith and the siege of...really very far afield from England as it was. Yes. That was a...that to me was an image of...

LH: What year did she die? Do you remember?

DB: No I don't. David remembers years, but let me see. Would it have been...in the forties I suppose. We think she committed suicide, which we don't know for sure. Grandpa died and he...she took care of him. He went blind. She took care of him for the last ten years of his life and when he was finally gathered she, two or three months later she was found dead in the garden and nobody knows quite why.

LH: And your other grandmother?

DB: Afrikaans. You know, not feminist at all. No and the...I'm trying to think...you know I've known older...the other marvelous model that I had and maybe I owe her...more to her than to my mother, was my kindergarten school teacher, Margaret Dick and her mother who were Scottish and Margaret had this...I think I learnt much more from Margaret than I did from my mother and we remained friends until she was gathered, which she went to England in the end and she was...she just...her mother was one of the first women to go to university in Edinburgh and she was around when Margaret had this little kindergarten school and so on. Margaret used to say that there were...she seemed to actually enjoy the company of six year olds and so, and, or some ??? ??? and a couple of others. There were a couple of other Margaret's sort of special people who I see still some of them, you know. It's difficult to say. It was not sort of huge wielding political power. They were all in the Black Sash, mother and Margaret and so on, but in terms of a person of integrity, of decency, of, you know, intelligence and all of those things, Margaret was definitely a terrific role model. But, you know, we had sheltered lives. I didn't know any of the Indian women then. When I worked in ~~???~~, when I worked in the slum there were many Black matriarchs.

LH: Well, you also spoke about the women the interviewed for ...

DB: Yes, ~~???~~ ^{Annie Silanga} that was much later. Yeah. And those, those, the women in the early ANC movement and so on were amazing. They all were technically Communist Party and I asked Annie ???, Annie or, there was another...I can't remember the name now, why did you join the Communist Party ??? ??? Well, she said, I heard on the radio that in Russia they have crèches for children and they have schools for women. They said of course I joined the Communist Party. Margaret, by the way Margaret Dick's sister Nancy was a member of the Communist Party and was in jail for sometime while I was in kindergarten with her. So there ...these things they were happening around us. My mother was...I feel like this is very shocking...no, I don't know. I'm not...gonna have to rack my brains about that particular question.

LH: Well, I think you've done fairly well answering it, I would say. If you were living in South Africa now how would your experience of aging be different than how it is now? And I know you said that you don't feel like you're aging but...

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DB: Compared to my own first cousin in South Africa, who's already, she's, she must be two years older than me, ??? less, one... She's already ...they've already gone to a sort of sheltered ^{elderberg} village and she's giving out at the knees and elbows and so on and she complains an awful lot and the only topics of conversation now interior decoration and real estate and I have nothing... ^{much in common with her.}

LH: And the health problems.

DB: I have nothing to contribute to either of those. It's ...that's pretty depressing I find, but they have to be...that is because her life was revolved around real estate and interior decorating perhaps and I haven't been, when I go to South Africa...oh, sorry...the people that I see are again my old, old Afrikaans writer and artist friends. Elsa ~~???~~, do you know Elsa ???.

LH: Yes. I mean I know who she is. Definitely.

DB: She's a dear, dear, dear friend. Elsa is in her ^{70s} she's pushing 80 I would say, but she seems to be younger than me. She really does and Klaas has just died. Her husband died within the year and she is ...she's...it's like a child sort of deprived...she is...they were such a pair, they finished each other's sentences and she's really having a terrifically bad adjustment problem, but so I spent some time with her this March when I was there. Again, it's like trying to get her to write her five year plan is my...my...but she's gonna be okay because she, she is a dedicated writer. She just can't, at the moment, get her mind off the fact that Klaas is dead and that they used to finish each other's sentences, you know. But she'll be okay. ^{MJ Hagen} ~~She~~ ^{will} be okay. Her husband ~~is~~ ^{is} gone too, but she's also an artist and she's a terrifically energetic. She teaches. She's ??? She's gonna...the one I'm really worried about is Marjorie ~~???~~ ^{Marjorie} Wallace. That's her painting up there. I've got another one facing there and, cause ~~???~~ ^{is}, I think he's got...he's an Alzheimer's or something like that, but she's not dragged down by herself, she's dragged down by the fact that her husband is, ~~???~~ disabled and not at home and she doesn't have a car. She can't drive. She's got Parkinson's and it's onerous. She's completely dependent on the kindness of friends and people like that, and plus they're scared. They're all scared, all of them. ^{Alan} ~~???~~ Marjorie, Elsa...they're scared of intruders of violence, which is terrifying for them. ^{Hed}

LH: Yeah. It's a terrible way to live, isn't it? I know. I'm just so sad about ~~???~~ ^{Alan} Patton's wife having left at her age.

DB: Yes. I clipped that piece...her interview ??? ???

LH: Yeah, that was really disturbing.

DB: Although she was never all the way with him, I don't think. But still, it's pretty...it is just plain scary. It really is.

LH: I mean to think that somebody at that point in her life has to leave the country of her home.

DB: Because of fear.

LH: Yeah. I mean it's one thing leaving when you're 25 or 30 or 40 even, but to leave when you're in your late 70's must be incredibly difficult.

DB: So I suppose, just to the extent that there is any sense in what I just said, the people, the women that I know in South Africa who have, who write or who paint or who do something seem, seem to me to be intrinsically okay, even if they are having a temporary period of great panic or something like that. My, my cousin, the one who's involved in real estate and interior decorator, is not okay. She's really...

LH: Well, you know, there's so many interesting studies on, on creativity and aging and, and, and of course creativity doesn't decline with age. It's one of the few things that they can say, you know...

DB: Georgia O'Keefe. My God. Yeah.

LH: Oh yeah. So many wonderful examples and, you know, so in some ways it inspires one to somehow, you know, the social work in me wants to, you know, start all sorts of creative programs for people who are at risk of having these awful, old ages to keep them inspired and...

DB: The trouble is if they weren't creative to begin with, it's unlikely ???.

LH: To superimpose that on somebody.

DB: Boy. It's a scary thing. I mean old age is not for sissies. I don't feel...I still teach dance, you see, and I'm much...

LH: Obviously, I could tell that you had had some dance training or that you were a dancer cause of your...

DB: But I'm much older than many, most of my students and still can jump high up and keep going as long, you know, so as long as I can keep that up I feel I'll be okay, but sooner or later the knees are going to give out I think. Many, many dancers do give out at the knees and hips.

LH: Has that been a consistent part of your life or...

DB: No, after I finished the Master's in Economics, I did a degree in...not a degree...I did a certification in teaching dance in '82 and I started...I taught at this small, really hardly call it dance class because it's more like an exercise class, at the UN, and it's small but I've been doing it every week without fail since '82. The only times I have not done it were when I was out of the country and one of the things I pride myself on is, you know, you don't cop out if you have a cold or if your foot hurts or something and I try...it's important for my class too. They don't...and they have to. If they called in and say I've got cramps or something. No, no. That's not good enough. Come in, you know.

LH: That's not a good enough excuse. You have to be in the emergency room. So is it modern dance or...

DB: Yes. I did...I trained in...well, I trained in tap and in ballet and in modern, but...

LH: That's what my husband wants to do...tap.

DB: Oh tap is wonderful. Wow. But it takes more energy than a football game, you know. It really does and I can't do it anymore. I never was that good at tap but I went everyday for years.

LH: Excellent.

DB: But I...and I, but I also trained in sort of jazz and modern and the certification I got was in those, the easy ones. Not the... ballets are so hard and I was lucky enough to get a room at the UN right away. As I say, every week since 1982...

LH: And so who comes to your classes?

DB: some have been coming since 1982, a couple of people at the UN, but some of them even stick to it even after they've left the UN. I have one who's probably in her 70's, or pushing 70's, ???, barely move...rolls her eyes a lot. She says it does her a lot of good and it certainly does me...you know, it's a lot of fun.

LH: I mean there's something so wonderful about...well like that image of the...of your friend...

DB: Diana. Yes. My God I wish I could do that.

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LH: Of just being in one's body, rather than observing it and complaining about it, which so many older people do.

DB: I must write her and find out what her training was for that because I do a lot of high leg movements, but that one is really a tough one.

LH: That is. Yeah. I mean I've been doing yoga for years and I don't know how to do that.

DB: Have you? And is that why you gave up meat?

LH: No. Actually that had nothing to do with it. Originally, I became a vegetarian because of cholesterol. I have a high cholesterol.

DB: That's fine. ??? cholesterol. That's another thing. It's like eggs and margarine and so on...??? cholesterol.

LH: Well, it was the bad cholesterol that was high, but actually my diet has really changed that.

DB: What is your diet?

LH: Well, I only just started eating seafood recently.

DB: Without salmon(?). You should have salmon(?) once a week, otherwise you'll die.

LH: Yeah. And I eat a lot of tofu and we do a lot of beans and rice and...

DB: And your husband goes along with this ghastly business, does he?

LH: Well, actually I met him when he was in this ghastly business, so thank God we didn't have to adapt to each other's diets, but no...we're pretty compatible food wise, which is wonderful and when people say to me, well, you know, I would love to be a vegetarian but I just can't seem to cook that way and I realize that one has to love to cook and I do happen to love cooking and so to be able to sustain a vegetarian diet.

DB: My niece is a vegetarian but she became a vegetarian, a devoted vegetarian at the age of six or so. My brother was Minister of Finance.

END OF TAPE

DB: But most ...they make a mess, you know, they...but they are ...I like them. I really, really, really appreciate...

LH: Oh, it's so wonderful having that sound. So...

DB: Straight into vegetarianism.

LH: Yeah. Well, actually how to stay healthy as one grows older.

DB: Well, what I was elected to yesterday was the Association of Former International Civil Servants, it's a bunch of aged folk and I was amazed to get the second highest vote. I truly and absolutely horrified and amazed cause I didn't canvass. I didn't know...I didn't want to be elected, but it means I'm going to have to plunge myself much more than ever before into the...into the problems of aging people. I've been on the board of awhile and I was hoping to get off and they, some of them I've just noticed, some of them are ...handle it much better than others and the one who handles it, to me, the best is Helen ~~???~~ who has a degree in gerontology, by the way. She started up...she left the UN, but just got...in this energy and

Saffer Rolt

interest and enthusiasm about things and that's what makes a difference. The ones who are apathetic get old.

LH: I remember my ...absolutely, you're so right...I remember my father saying to me. I used to always ask these difficult questions and demand an answer to them. There was no point in asking a question without getting an answer and at some point he said to me, Lyndall, why do you keep asking these questions and I remember standing there at about the age of eight and looking at him and saying, I hope I never, ever stop asking questions.

DB: Good for you. Yes.

LH: And that's one of the things I always say to my students is, if you want to age wonderfully keep asking questions and I really do believe that if you're curious...

DB: Who are your students in a gerontology class, is that what you actually teach?

LH: Yeah.

DB: Cause...youngsters...cause it's impossible when you're young to understand the problems of...

LH: Actually I'm lucky. It's mostly more mature students. So I'm really blessed to have students who really know what they want to do and I are really passionate about it.

DB: And ...what...meaning what? Passionate about what?

LH: About working with older people and issues of aging and wanting to improve the lot of our older people in the United States.

DB: Citizens. Senior citizens.

LH: And, you know, the whole issue of long term care and...

DB: Oh. You know I was turned down for long term care. I...there are a lot of issues of that sort that are quite worrisome.

LH: Oh, for insurance, long term for insurance?

DB: Yeah.

LH: You know those kinds, of course ,the financial issues whatever and we all hope that we're just going to keep on going and then just (snap) die.

DB: What happened to some of those people actually? I feel I'm very fortunate and lucky I haven't...as I say I have all these blessings but most people...

LH: The media has...provides such a distorted view too.

DB: On everything.

LH: I mean it's such a small percentage of people who end up in nursing health care, actually even though we imagine that, you know, every person who's over 95 ends up in a nursing home. It's not true at all.

DB: But how do they manage not to? They can afford to have...or they have children and grandchildren or something?

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LH: Well, that's a good question. I think living in a city like New York is a real...is a real advantage because you have public transportation, you have wonderful resources on your doorstep, so people who are living in the suburbs have a much...

DB: Once you stop driving that's a big test.

LH: We have a much healthier, older population than we think. People live independently, they're active, they garden, they walk...

DB: If they're lucky enough to be in the country. Here it's different cause...

LH: Sure. And if they're living in the city they're, you know, 80% of them are able to care for themselves and over, well the statistics are that people 85 and older, of those twenty percent end up in nursing home care, mostly because of Alzheimer's.

DB: Okay. That's ...and what does one do to prevent that?

LH: I have no idea.

DB: I ^{am} have a terrific volunteer ...for ~~a~~ clinical trials. I volunteer for all sorts and on Tuesday ⁱⁿ at the Science Times you see volunteers wanted for this or that or the other. I actually volunteered for an obesity trial after ~~92-99~~ ⁹²⁻⁹⁹ it was turned down. ~~It~~ was not qualified, but I...

~~I stopped smoking & gained 20 lbs~~

LH: You've got a long way to go to qualify for an obesity trial.

DB: But I did, ^{a helicobacter pilori} ~~had to go back~~ ^{helicobacter pilori} trial and marvelous, you know, there was a trial for ~~92-99~~ ^{had to go} ~~back to~~ very simply and you just put a... ~~Q~~ tip thing in your cheek there and after awhile they can, they can at least say you're negative or come back for another trial and if you come back for another trial and then they take blood and sure enough ~~92-99~~ ^{was positive for helicobacter} which is what causes ulcer, not that you're an ~~or~~ ^{or} worried silly person, you know. I've had ulcers for years. I had ulcers when I married. It's a function of marriage and so ~~had to go back through~~ ^{had to go back through} and taken care of and that's that, you know. Anyway I did volunteer recently for a series of trials that Columbia Presbyterian ~~they're doing trials on memory~~ ...the first one was just for memory because I'd keep worrying that I'd forgotten the name of somebody I learned yesterday, particularly ~~with 92-99~~ ^{with 92-99} abandoned spouses. So I went and I did all these...this array of four or five hours of tests and I ~~passed~~ ^{passed} those tests because then they asked me for the next array and they are test...they, they believe that...there is a theory with some substance...with some evidence to it...but if you've taking hormone replacement you won't get ^{it} it will help you not to...it improves your memory, ~~and~~ I've been on hormone replacement for awhile, so they called me back in for a second, third and ~~a~~ fourth array of tests on memory ~~tests~~ ^{tests}, which was actually very interesting. I don't know how I did. I did ~~92-99~~ ⁹²⁻⁹⁹ well but they...you know, they're completely trivial things that they ask you to remember. They show you several lists of words and you have to, then they ~~put them off~~ ^{put them off} and then you have to...they flash words at you very quickly and you have to press buttons and say whether they came ~~from~~ ^{from} list one or list two and I, you know, I remembered all the words fine but I couldn't remember the list one or list two. But it was, it was, it was a whole day of this and it was very...it was sort of interesting to test oneself against this. That is a good notion if, in fact, if it's true that hormone replacement prevents memory derangement...heavens, everyone should be on it.

LH: Unfortunately it increases the risk of all sorts of other things.

DB: Well, it doesn't. No, not...very little. Very microscopically. It's not...that's another, I think, of the things that...

LH: Hypes of the media.

DB: Yeah. The breast cancer, it's supposed to, but it's point naught two percent.

neurotic
housewife
life who've
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hormone
replacement
for some time

the language
stuff pretty
well

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LH: I haven't heard anybody say naught for a long time.

DB: What do they say here? Zero.

LH: Zero.

DB: Of course.

LH: There are all sorts of strange things that happen when one's talking to another South African.

DB: Actually that's funny cause, you know, I always say naught and maybe that's why people look at me oddly.

LH: Who knows?

DB: That's one I just hadn't...all these years and I hadn't even thought.

LH: A couple of other questions...well, you've been here so long that some of these, I don't know how you would respond to them, but let me just ask anyway. Actually this one you've sort of covered. What is your experience of aging in a country other than your own, and it sounds as though you've...

DB: I'm just...thank God I'm here. I mean if I was alone in Cape Town, you know, a society that is divided into nuclear families, I think I'd be in much worse shape than I am now, much worse. And also where you had to go ~~into a~~ car to do everything.

LH: Yes. Yeah. Absolutely. Do you ever talk about these kinds of issues with your friends?

DB: No. No. I don't even admit to being old. I don't...honestly I don't think of myself as old, I'm afraid, yet. Probably need to be ~~???~~ *more realistic*.

LH: Or maybe it won't. I mean I think it is a strange concept, isn't it?

DB: We make it...we make sort of jokes about, you know, at my age you...the thing is I thought I was developing arthritis and I took...I read up and I did all kind of things and it's gone. It can't have been arthritis which means ~~???~~ *but* those are the really sad people that...that can hardly walk and one side had...I'd had a couple of years of really ^{pains} in the hips. Now I go to the supermarket and I can see the people who are going through exactly what I'd thought ~~???~~ *been through* but they haven't...they haven't discovered gelatin. You drink gelatin every day ...

LH: And that's what helped you?

DB: Absolutely. Yeah. I tried ~~??~~ *chondroitin* and ~~???~~ *glucosamine*. It helps only about fifty percent of people ~~and~~ the daily gelatin seems to work.

LH: Interesting. Not to mention your dance and other things. And I'm sure you walk a lot.

DB: Yes. I walk a lot.

LH: Well, that's what's so wonderful about a city like New York cause you're exercising all the time.

DB: It's easy. They say you should do two miles a day, but I can't, two miles a couple of times a week and it's hard not to.

LH: Yeah, especially in this city. How do you, well, I'm sort of struggling with some of these questions because it's hard for me to think of you as an older person too, so...you've got me in a bit of a quandary.

DB: No. Actually it's interesting to me to confront some of these things. Do I ever talk about being an older person? I don't know. Certainly not... I actually I do ... I have one friend, Jennifer, who's ... we have a ... we sort of have a very, ^{open relationship} we talked about whether or not we should have plastic surgery and we... jokingly, it was all a sort of huge giggle. She's English and in the end she did. She had bags taken under her eyes. I don't think my eyes have got to the bag stage yet. I don't know.

LH: No. Not at all. And so, how did that change her life?

DB: Oh, she... it doesn't look any different to me at all. It was a terrific source of ^{strength} ~~we~~ we had to pluck ^{up} ~~our~~ courage ~~but~~ but that's the only person that I talk to, I suppose, about ^{it} ~~we~~ we confide in each other about an ache or a pain or something like that occasionally, but all the... I certainly don't talk to Joy and David about ^{it} ~~it~~ I only talk to them about having, I thought, arthritis once it was over. Thank goodness you're relieved to having to wheel me around in a ... in a wheelchair.

LH: Well, let me move on to a different angle of this interview, which is talking about the concept of home and the first question in this sort of category of questions is describe an experience that illustrates the concept of home for you.

DB: Wherever my cats are is home.

LH: So that's why you take them to Warwick with you.

DB: Home is where your cats are. That's somebody else's definition, it's not only mine. I can't remember... ~~or a cat I think is~~ in fact, maybe ^{that} a legal definition in England ~~if~~ home is where your... your domicile is where your cat is.

LH: Oh, I just... your cat just did this wonderful yoga stretch called the cat.

DB: I model... I model some of my exercises on them.

LH: Then you're doing yoga. She did this wonderful arched back thing.

DB: Other than that I can't think of anything, but home. I'm afraid it is to me an interior, rather than an exterior. It's... I feel very happy in Cape Town. I love it. It's beautiful, but home is the interior and ...

LH: Well, you have created such a wonderful interior here.

DB: You've been with all my beautiful animals. And with my little household around here.

LH: So how is...

DB: Would you like some coffee or tea at this stage?

LH: Actually I'm fine right now. Thanks. I might in a little while.

DB: Okay. Good.

LH: And if I asked you to choose one thing that represents a symbol of home to you, what would you choose to show me?

DB: As a scene from just the interior of my ??? I'd be hard ??? See, I'm not defining home as a country. I'm defining it as an interior space, so it's difficult to... let me think. That's a hard one. I don't know, other than cats. Books.

LH: And cats.

DB: Where they are is home. And I've found, you know, when I...cause I have ...I'm tidy as you can see...but when I've been stationed in Bosnia or in, in Cambodia or in Haiti or wherever I've been stationed for the UN, I have a flair for making a pristine motel room into a mess within about two and a half hours. It becomes a sort of nest of mess and then I feel at home. It's...I can't things tidy and it's what I feel at home in. I can't think of any particular object or tree or bush or creature.

LH: Well, I think the cats are a wonderful symbol.

DB: Well, they are ??? ??? ???

LH: This is a ...it's hard to talk about aging without talking about death and so one of my last questions is where would you like to be buried?

DB: I don't want to be buried. I want to be flushed down the toilet and I've told everybody that. You know, the time comes, burn me, put me down the toilet. I really hate mumbo jumbo, and fuss and ceremony and rituals and things like that. I really do. In fact, I recently...I think I just mentioned it at this last weekend too because Cheetah was talking about her mother and they were all going to do a great ceremony and cast her ashes around the place and then when it comes to me...toilet. That's fine. I don't have any, any sense of ~~???~~ at all about...Sorry, I can't give you a good answer.

LH: That's a great answer. That's the most unique answer I've heard so far. So I'm assuming you wouldn't want a marker of remembrance of your life to be placed anywhere then, in that case.

DB: No. Maybe above the toilet. I don't know. You know, my wedding...we got married at lunch hour. I really have such a hatred of ceremonies and occasions. We got married in lunch hour. ~~At~~ the UN I went back to work, called a few people to come in...it's ...I really dread ritual occasions.

LH: And your life at the United Nations, were there a lot of those?

DB: I...

LH: Did you avoid them?

DB: I specifically asked not to have a farewell party after all these umpteen years at the UN and I said if you do give a farewell party to me, I won't come and I didn't.

LH: And did they?

DB: No. I don't know if they did. I wasn't there. Makes people very unhappy, they...but the last thing I would want to be remembered by is one of those tedious farewell parties where people make speeches and it's ugh. It's just awful. No. The least ritual, the most real is ...is ~~that~~ *the experience*.

LH: And so, this is the last question, by the way, so that leads me to ask you the question what legacy would you like to leave?

DB: Ah, there you are. You know, you see I would like to leave for my ladies at ...the ~~my~~ *abandoned* wives, I would like to leave a law that makes it possible for them to claim child support and family support and, you know, I've have made steps in this direction. I wrote the only, one and only law that applies in the UN to permit cracks through the diplomatic immunity to allow the UN to give courts information about their salaries and that would be, to me, an absolutely wonderful legacy. That's one but a couple of others. But mainly it's in that sort of area, the principle laws...something like that. And this is a very...it's a complicated law. Believe me, it's not a simple thing. Diplomatic immunity you see ...the reason why it's so difficult is because diplomatic immunity is essential ...it is essential in order to conduct any kind of international business and the position of the UN is that if you...any little crack in the whole edifice of diplomatic immunity, the whole thing will come tumbling down. So if we allow your ex wives, your

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into disaster.
spouses, to claim child support, the next thing is that Saddam Hussein will be exposing our inspectors and throwing the whole world...and this is literally what they say to me when I've argued with the chief of the legal office. Nonsense, say I. It would be possible to carve a single exception for family support matters. Saddam Hussein's got nothing to do with that, but it's not a single, seamless structure, diplomatic immunity. It maybe seems so to you, but look at it a different way, I say. Anyway I think ...I think we're gonna win. I really do. I feel on a winning streak with this, but that's one and after we've got that ...the next big legacy is to get medical insurance for divorced spouses, and ~~this~~ is nothing...everyone whenever I'm interviewed by CNN or something like that, it's nothing to do with me. I have no, no personal interest in this. I have medical insurance. I'm comfortably off. It's just a principle. All over the world women ought to be able ...

LH: And you've seen so much of that yourself.

DB: Women ought to be able to, to, to claim basic things, whether they're divorced or not, you know. There's a whole world out there that has been ~~left behind~~. In Pakistan, if you get raped you get sued.

LH: Have you seen Mandy Jacobson's film. She's a South African documentarian. Film ...she's done a film documentary on women in Bosnia.

DB: No.

LH: Called Calling (?) the Ghosts.

DB: No I haven't.

LH: She's here in New York actually. I was hoping to interview her. I didn't get a response to...

DB: Boy, there are some good South African filmmakers, if I may say so.

LH: Oh, absolutely, and yeah...it's...it was an...she won an Emmy for it actually on women and rape in Bosnia.

Aparna Khosla
DB: That I may have seen because one of my very close friends, ~~???~~, is chief of the women's section in UNDP of women's...Latin America women's section. She, from time to time, as part of ~~her~~ job holds...shows documentary films and I have been to several and I'm almost sure I saw one. Could it be in my imagination?

Yoga in a photograph.
LH: Calling the Ghosts, it was called?

DB: No, not Calling the Ghosts, but about women and rape in Bosnia and women and rape in Pakistan or something. Diana Russell, the ~~??~~ lady, is a very close friend of Susan Brownmiller of Against Our Will fame, ~~the men ??? and a load of others~~. She's a ...they're very...she...we all together founded Women Against Pornography here in New York.

LH: Oh interesting.

we
DB: And got into a lot of flack about that. I did with some of my friends who ~~??~~ straight South African political, ~~what's wrong with pornography, you know?~~

she said
LH: Well, the very last question that I always like to ask anybody I'm interviewing for this project is is there anything that I have not asked you that you would like to share in the interview that you feel is pertinent?

DB: If it's to do with growing old, I've obviously haven't confronted it too well because I'm ...I get thrown by the age questions of yours. I'm happy about reminiscing about the past, but looking towards the future...I don't know what to do. I really don't. It suddenly reminds me I ought to write a will again. I

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have written one, but it's going to be changing. No, except I hope we can continue a conversation at some later point and when I think about ...when I think about it in my ...with all my cats I think of what ??? ??? cause I...do you think, do you think that South African women have anything special that Bosnian or Cambodian or Korean or Senegalese women don't? I don't know. 7

LH: Well, that's a really interesting question. I think ...I think what's happened for us is, as South African women, and I can only talk about South African women coming to the United States...I think that we've experienced a liberation that goes beyond the liberation of our ...you know, the political liberation. I think you've experienced a liberation ...a feminist liberation that was not available to us in South Africa and I don't think it's available to us right now.

DB: I think that's for sure. Although I do know quite a few South African feminists who were pretty sure at one point. Many of them came to this country. You're quite right, they did come.

LH: I mean I think there's been a ...as much as...as much as I have a problem with, with the focus on the individual here, rather than the...a more, a more sort of collective social justice approach, I mean I think so many people are just so focused on the individual, out of this economic system that we live in. I also think that the positive side of it is that we're able to fully express ourselves.

DB: Yes.

LH: And have the freedom to do that. I must say that Cheetah articulated it beautifully actually in her interview and said, you know, that in South Africa one would be considered eccentric and yet here were just individuals expressing ourselves and I think that there is some of that in South Africa, that if you're different you're considered eccentric and I think...

DB: I think so here too though, I'm afraid. There's an awful lot of conformity here in various ways. ??? ??? ??? 7

LH: But there's certainly, by comparison...

DB: I'm not even sure about that cause a lot of the women I know in South Africa are...are eccentric but they're just regarded as Afrikaans writers or. *afrikaans*

LH: Oh thanks. Gosh. That's fine.

DB: Broken my normal routine and don't want to stop.

LH: That's a really interesting question, Diana. I've just read a book on women in exile that gave examples from many different parts of the world, of women who've been living here in exile and obviously there's a different experience of living in the United States, as opposed to living maybe in an African country in exile, from for instance a Mozambican woman living in South Africa in exile would be a very different experience, but ...

DB: Gosh, you know, everyone I know is exiled. I was thinking...I was just racing through my mind, but not in the South African sense...from ~~the~~ *a cruel government*. God, I have friends from, who were Black who were exiled in the ~~20~~ years and, you know, in some ways perhaps what South Africa women, the advantage that we had, I don't know about Black South African women, is that we, we, is that everybody knew our basic story or had some mold to which they could put us so that it's not just we, our own personal feeling of exile, but they say, oh you're a South African. No wonder you left. That wasn't the reason why I left. It was because I couldn't stand my father, you know. It was something like that, whereas if you came from ~~the~~ *France or Sp* everyone would scratch their head and say why did you, you know, what...so what...or Zimbabwe or, or God I have half a dozen women from Senegal from my *group* who can't go back and they can't go back, not because of political realities, *but* partly because the country's falling apart, but mainly because it's too shameful to go back without your husband that you set off with. The, the, virtually all the hundred ladies or so in my...I have a Syrian woman, *half-30s*, who lives in the Salvation Army. Her husband dumped her. He, not

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only dumped her, but he went over and got an absolutely phony divorce in some village somewhere and she's, she refuses to accept this. We've managed to get the UN to refuse to accept to accept her husband's divorce. *we's who's technically now a bigamist, but if she, if she allows any authority to accept this weird divorce that he did, then she loses the survivors benefits that he might get from the pension plan when he croaks, but she is a boy is she in exile from Syria. You know, she... Salvation Army and Syria is a very, very... I feel we're so, in a way, we're so lucky. We have such a ... we are lucky in that we are able to mingle, we're able to understand the language, we can...*

LH: Sure. Absolutely. We have a very different experience of...

DB: I had an excellent education. I can... I mean a very, very, very... compared to, to many of the ladies that I'm dealing with now. They had a reasonable education in Senegal or in Somali or something like that, but they can't cope here. They can't. They have...

LH: And we're White.

DB: And we're White, you see. We have... so I think we're the lucky ones and to me it's not so much exile, it's, it's a city that I've chosen and that I love and that I'm not here because I can't go back anywhere else. I'm here because I want to be here.

LH: You've consciously chosen this.

DB: I actually...

LH: But you did have to choose to leave.

DB: Yeah. So long ago, but then... but by the time you finished a whole long career at the UN you don't want... well, that... ~~???~~ an awful lot of the people at the UN do go back to their homelands. I don't know what becomes of them. That's an interesting thesis, subject, is what happens to somebody after thirty years at the UN who goes back to Syria or to Cambodia or something. A lot of them die. They just croak, you know.

LH: Well, look at all... look at the exiles... South African exiles who've gone back and have returned.

DB: Returned to America? Well, you should try and find Dawn Zane. I wonder what's become of her because a lot of the people who were more doctrinaire political than me did go back and then... I wonder how many of them fitted in with the new South Africa because my impression is that the new South Africa regarded them just as anybody else. The fact that you suffered all those years in exile, so what, you know.

LH: ??? Sorry, in that hierarchical thing that I was talking to... when you were mentioned it today... well, gosh, you weren't here in the trenches when it was all happening.

Butcher: *Butcher:*
DB: That was what ~~??~~ said, you know. ~~??~~ great resentment against these people who are in exile in Botswana was that I'm here on the line everyday and I'm as, as liable to arrest as the simplest fellow in the street if I overstep the speed limit or something like that. I don't... I don't know if I would now, but at the time I had a terrific friendship with ~~??~~, a correspondence with him. I think he may be a bit whacko, but he... you know, until he's whacko to me... he gave me a terrible fight once here in New York. I was leaving the UN late at night after ~~the~~ studying, things like that, and it was dark and I left the UN and suddenly this huge, Black man picked me up and hugged me and I thought I'd been assaulted and it was ~~??~~. Fancy meeting you ~~??~~. He may have gone. He really may have. I don't know, but until he's been nasty to me I ~~??~~. He's really going to be out... *Satcha shall*

continue to be loyal to him.
LH: Yeah, I wonder what's going to happen after this election. What do you think?

DB: Do we get a vote? I haven't even called.

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LH: I am so upset, but I don't as a resident. I'm not even a citizen of the U.S.

DB: Nor am I.

LH: And...

DB: But you...I had a vote the last time around.

LH: Yeah. So did I. They're not allowing...

DB: It's the first time in my life that I ^{was} ~~would be~~ able to vote.

LH: Me too. Well, I had...I was allowed to before but I didn't choose...I chose not to, but I know it was a very powerful experience. But, yeah Diana, in this election people who are living outside of the country are not allowed to vote.

DB: Okay. I can understand that in a way. I really can, but it's tough. It's too bad, but then you know ...it's funny, what is the fair thing?

LH: But 'don't you think...well you probably know this better than I do...you know the ^{law} perhaps. Well, other people...other citizens...for citizens of other countries, living outside of their country of citizenship, if there's an election in that country, are they not allowed a vote?

DB: Some are and some aren't. It's honestly idiosyncratic. In fact, there are some countries where it's compulsory to vote. If you don't vote you get arrested or charged with something and I remember at the UN there were certain, certain countries...Uruguay...I can't remember which one, where it is...and the voting day the UN had to give them time off to vote because it's compulsory and they had to be at their consulate. Other countries, there's no right to vote if you've left.

LH: Really. The rationale, by the way, is the expense. That's the official rationale. The cynic in me says that they're not enough ANC supporters outside of the country for them to warrant allowing it to happen.

DB: For them to make an effort for it.

LH: Yeah. But for women like the one I'm...the woman I'm going to be staying with tonight, who you might know, Nomazizi Sokudela. Do you know her?

DB: I don't think so.

LH: She was the regional ANC representative here in the New York area. She lives in the Bronx. You know, she's been ...God, such an amazing soldier for all these years, decades, and she can't vote.

DB: Lord.

LH: Which is awful.

DB: But she could if she flew back, or not?

LH: Yes, she could if she flew back but unfortunately she can't fit that by the beginning of June.

DB: ^{is} Cause I'm even sure that I had the identity document that you are needing to vote this time. It's never, never easy somehow to sort these things out to what is the correct and just thing cause you can't honestly go on extending the vote to people who've been out of the country for thirty years, I think. That seems to be not fair.

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LH: Yeah.

DB: The reason why we were all, I think we were all included in the first freedom election was because there just were so many people who were, who were out of the country for reasons of politics, but now, you know, those who wanted to could have gone back probably and...

LH: Diana, it's just occurred to me to ask you another question and this isn't even a question that's in my interview, but I'm just curious to know. How much of you identified yourself as a South African?

DB: Absolutely fully I'm a South African, but I'm also a New Yorker and --- I can't not be a South African. I feel very connected, very, very connected to the Kalahari and to, to Cape Town and to the whole situation, very, very much so, and I would hate not to be going back there annually. It would be very, very, a great deprivation to me.

LH: How much time do you spend there per year?

DB: Two weeks. Now that mom's gone I just stay with my cousins, nice cousins, not the, not the interior decoration one.

LH: Is that in Cape Town or...

DB: Cape Town, yeah. And they come and stay with me with all three children and...

LH: Where do they stay in Cape Town?

DB: Constandia(?) And he's a...they're rich I think. They...he's a doctor and she's a wonderful biologist. She's just super ...

LH: What are their names?

DB: Louie
Lowe:

LH: Oh my grandmother's name was Louie.

DB: Well, maybe we're related.

LH: Her name was Lyndall Lowe. So her brother was the first...

DB: Football player.

LH: Yes.

DB: My uncle. My second uncle...Louie...no, you're kidding.

LH: Oh, my God I just got cold chills. You're kidding?

DB: Not Louie Lowe.

LH: Yes. He was the first springbok(?)

DB: Yes. Yes. And he was lame for the rest of his life.

LH: Yes. Yes.

DB: My God. ??? ???

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LH: That is so funny. Oh my God. Now wait, hold on a minute. Let me get this straight.

DB: They lived in...their house was ~~???~~ ^{Labriet et Picardy}. No, that was Dolly.

LH: No, wait. Hold on a minute. Now hold on. Let me just remember...

DB: My uncle, my great uncle Louie Lowe was the first, one of the first ~~???~~ ^{Afrikaans rugby springboks} and he had, he had an injury in his springbok ~~???~~ and he limped for the rest of his life and he had two sons, Harold and ~~???~~. It was Harold's wife ~~???~~ that betrayed me to the police, if that can be the same one.

LH: Yes. Yes. ^{Edie}

DB: But I ...in fact I have, amazingly, somewhere here a box of ~~???~~ ^{Labriet et Picardy wine.}

LH: This is too weird. Diana, this is too weird.

DB: He has two sons, Harold and ~~???~~ ^{Hodgson, Hodgson} is a nice man and Harold is a...he's a really kind ... ^{Nat. and an ousdesting}

LH: No, but you mentioned ~~Koby~~.

DB: ~~Koby~~ is his wife. But Uncle Louie, Uncle Louie was an absolute darling and his wife's name is Dolly.

LH: And he...your...and he was the first South African...he was the first springbok ~~???~~ to play in England.

DB: Yes. Absolutely. He was and he injured his leg or his hip or something.

LH: Well, he was my...he was my grandmother's, God I need to look at her documents, I asked her to write the family story...he was her, God was he her brother. He was her brother.

DB: What was her Christian name?

LH: ^{uw} Love.

DB: No, what was her first name?

LH: Lyndall.

DB: Lyndall what?

LH: No, was it her brother or her cousin? Very close relative.

DB: I'm not sure that...that I know who Louie's sisters were but ...they all lived to a great age, all of them and could be. I mean Louie was wonderful. There again it's this generation skipping business cause Louie was taller and...

LH: I mean what age were...he would have been like a hundred and something...

DB: A hundred and something now, but he...

LH: It was her brother. I'm sure it was her brother.

DB: In ~~???~~ ^{Paarl} ^{Paarl} Lived in ~~???~~ ??? ??? I think was his farm.

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DB: And then, then, then the, the Louie's, Louie's , Louie had eleven brothers or ten, I think, but there was a ~~low~~ cricket team. ~~Is~~ there eleven people on a cricket team?

DB: They actually played cricket, even though they were Afrikaners, so goodness knows what and in addition to ...Ebenezer was one. Ebenezer was very eccentric and Albino, I think, a cousin to Ebenezer, or uncle...was one of Louie Lowe's ...I think he was brother or cousin, maybe...and we ...just about every weekend or most weekends we used to have to trudge out ???, which was lovely actually cause he had a wonderful ...I adored Louie. He had the most distinguished, looked like Mountbatten, that was the ???.

DB: No it's not. It happens.

DB: If it's the same and Harold and ¹⁹⁹⁷ you know, the nice son and nasty son, the ...I haven't seen them in so many years, but every time I go to Cape Town I say to my ^{son} John and ¹⁹⁹⁷, let's go and try and see Harold or ¹⁹⁹⁷, for ¹⁹⁹⁷ actually...I don't want to see Harold. And I just never do. We're too busy with...I have lots of lovely friends in Cape Town, you know, and there for a short time and it's...

DB: But Powell Lowes, are you sure they were the Powell Lowes, cause there were many, many Lowes in ??? and my cousin, my second cousin...

DB: That's Uncle Louie. Yes. ???

DB: And he had...he injured himself and he had this limp for the rest of his life.

DB: That's absolutely, unquestionably Uncle Louie and his wife was Dolly, who was a wonderful, lovely lady and they had these two sons , Harold and [unclear] and whoever had [unclear]. Harold remained an Afrikaans [unclear] farmer, you know, he was...not a [unclear]. What's the word you use? For being a [unclear] in the church and he married Koby who was very, very reactionary. [unclear] became a diplomat . He was in the South African diplomatic service, all over the place until heavy-duty apartheid, when he quit. He couldn't do it anymore and he returned and became a lawyer in [unclear] and he's one I would like to see cause I don't know that I could handle Harold, if he's still alive.

DB: Have you got a relative who would remember?

LH: Well, no. Well, my mom might, but I do have it all written down. I asked...when I came here actually, when I came to the U.S. I thought, oh my gosh my grandmother's got...is the keeper of all these

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family stories and I need to get them documented, so she wrote me a couple of letters explaining the family history and of course I'd heard the story all my life, especially when my brothers started playing rugby.

DB: Gosh. I bet it's, I bet it's Uncle Louie because, I mean that's it, Louie ^{Lowe} Lowe. There can't be that many Lowes who were the first South African...

LH: For some reason I think this was her brother.

DB: See, I don't know who Louie's brothers...who Louie's, Louie's collaterals were. It was his descendants that I knew so it was a little tough growing up.

LH: I'm sure she...I'm sure she would tell us that it was her brother. So if he was your uncle...

DB: Well, I don't know if he was my uncle because it all became a bit confused, but he was, let me see, because my father's, my father is Afrikaans side, my father's mother, no...which one was ...was Dolly's sister so he was, I suppose he was great uncle or something like that.

LH: Well, he was, would have been my great uncle..

DB: Okay. Well, there you are. We are probably first ??? kin, but it's...it becomes more complicated because John Henry and ~~the~~ the cousins who come over here and I stay with them in Constantia a lot, John's mother, the one who's, who's interior decorating and real estate, is also...she's my cousin and also my second cousin because her father Louie, her father Henry ~~Lowe~~ married, married my father's sister somehow, so it's...it's a very, terribly complicated.

LH: Rather incestuous.

DB: Yeah. Rather incestuous. So she...because of my ...being my father's sister, ~~she~~ ^{he} was my father's sister so Ruth would be my first cousin, but also my second cousin because...

LH: Twice removed.

DB: Yeah. Something like that. Anyway we're ??? and kin. We are kin and very, terribly fond of them. They're sweet. They're dear people.

LH: Oh my God. That is so odd.

DB: But ^{Bonnie} Libby was a dear, just that the rest of the Afrikaans side of the thing ...and Dolly was wonderful, Dolly his wife. She's a dear person and they all had endless skills, those ladies. Do you remember them, they'd crocheted and they...

LH: Well, you see I didn't have any exposure to them for some reason. So I'm wondering...I really need to look this letter up...this inspires me to read that letter again when I get home.

DB: When I was doing the film on Afrikaans history I thought it would be safe to go film at ~~the~~ ^{Labon} ~~the~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{Picard} because they are relatives of mine and also they were kind to their Africans, you know, their Coloreds. They did indeed pay by the ~~the~~ ^{the} system and so did everybody else in the ~~the~~ ^{the} and they had built already, they had built rather nice workers houses and other people's workers lived in, on ~~the~~ ^{the} somewhere, you know, so I would be fine and it also was so scenic. It was this beautiful old cape house and I went there with my film crew and I asked and they said okay. I didn't know ~~Kathy~~ ^{Kathy} was going to run off to the cops or whatever she ran off to. But it was her. She was the ...she was the...Louie wouldn't have...and again my vivid memory as a child was when Louie, Louie made raisins from ~~the~~ ^{the} grapes which I've never, ever had anywhere else in the world. I don't know what...it's a lost art. They were huge raisins, ~~the~~ ^{the} or light colored raisins and they were divine. I don't think they make them anymore.

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LH: Yeah it's so interesting. I mean how many people would know if I said the first springbok(?), whatever his name was, Lowe...

DB: They probably wouldn't know. Great uncle or whatever it was.

LH: Well, she...my grandmother Lyndall Lowe...

DB: And still alive.

LH: No. No. She died...she died at a fairly ripe age. She had a wonderful life and then the last couple of years were horrible. She died in '91, '92 at 96 and she was very much of a social welfare type, always wore sensible shoes and went out into the townships and did all sorts of wonderful things.

DB: Is she the one that's possibly Louie's sister.

LH: It could be.

DB: That's hard to believe because they, they, I didn't think they were sort of that milieu, but maybe. Who knows? But definitely Louie Lowe was, was...

LH: Yeah, she went out and started the...what was called the Sunshine Homes for children who's parents had TB.

DB: Yes, that rings a bell too. Yeah.

LH: And so she started that and she did a number...there would be...

DB: But they were Afrikaans ???

LH: Oh yeah. But she married an Englishman, Albert White, and ended up living in Mozambique with him for a number of years and actually that's where my mother was born, in ??? and then what was ??? and then she contracted malaria at about the age of 9 and they had to leave, but he was an import/export agent and then they moved to Pretoria and lived on a farm there for a number of years and then when my mom was about seventeen they moved to Cape Town and then moved to...they were in Kenilworth and she went to university at Cape Town. God that would be bizarre.

DB: It would be bizarre because Louie and Dolly and the whole gestalt around them were pretty down home Afrikaans people.

LH: Well, that was my...my grandmother was pretty down home Afrikaans.

DB: They were marvelous ^{lost} and they ^{could - earned}. They...actually...suddenly bringing back a huge visual. They crocheted covers for the toilet paper. They crocheted covers for the Kleenex boxes when Kleenex boxes came in...

LH: And the toilet seat?

DB: The toilet seat and so the whole...not a surface in the bathroom was left uncovered.

LH: It's sort of like the Muslim community ??? too but they would starch it in sugar water and so all these, these things that you put on top of the toilet were dolls and then the dolls skirts would sort of stand up like ...with the sugar water. God.

DB: Last year I had a terrific recollection with my brother, ^{Quill}, when we went from ^{Raborone} on a drive around the northern cape to see the Herman Charles ^{Bosman} territory, which is absolutely fascinating and he's sort of being revived and there's a...

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LH: Oh good.

Bosman
DB: There's a ...there's...it's this sort of place ~~where they make not what~~ ^{which} is kind of Herman Charles ~~???~~ museum, but sort of...very, very sort of, and I went to the ladies room and that was in the ladies house and it was every single surface was covered in crocheted ~~???~~ ^{knitted} forgotten. I'd forgotten bout what it was like. It was just amazing, ~~but~~ nearby was the man who made ~~???~~ ^{mampor}. Do you remember the Herman Charles that they drank ~~???~~ all the time. In fact, I have some ~~???~~ ^{mampor} here. I haven't even opened it so I won't offer it now.

LH: I was just reminding...well actually I was reminded myself of a quote from him that I, that I recollected to Cheetah yesterday in our interview about what he said. I can't remember where it was from. Maybe it was from ??? ??? . I'm not sure but "I can tell you what I know of Africa. The rest only Africa knows". I love that quote for some reason. It always just stays with me. It's so hard to explain to somebody who's never been to Africa, but it's a Africa ???.

DB: It's a lovely part of the world, the northern cape. It's very...it's still is very much like Herman Charles ~~???~~ at his ??? . You can recognize the village store. It will be overwhelmed by Disney World soon, I think. *Bosman*

LH: Well, Diana...

END OF TAPE