

DRACULA IN BROOKLYN

Transcript

[00:00:00-00:33:00] [Bach's *Toccatà and Fugue in D Minor* playing over title sequence]

Bev: [00:33:11] There's, like, a conception of a lot of Jewish people living in Brooklyn... And I knew we were moving to, like, the Polish neighborhood... uh...but i guess I didn't really think about what that would be like. But when we first moved here, um, it was pretty regular, like... It just seemed like a neighborhood. [00:58:23] [sighs]

[01:02:12] [Sound of a lighter flicking on]

Bev says the blessing over the Shabbat candles in Hebrew.

Bev: [01:11:14] Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech ha'olam asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Shabbat.

[01:27:08] [Sounds of cars, woman speaking Polish offscreen]

Bev: [01:49:23] How many years have we lived here? Is it our third year?

Bev says Kiddush over the wine in Hebrew.

Bev: [01:52:04] Baruch Atah, Adonai, Eloheinu, Melech ha'olam, borei p'ri hagafen.

[02:01:09] Yeah, I think it's pretty nerve-wracking, actually, more than you would expect it to be, as a Jewish person living in Greenpoint, which is, like, so predominantly Polish Catholic, uh... Especially around Hanukkah last year, like, nothing happened, but, you know, we put the menorah in the window like you're supposed to, and I just, like, was so afraid every night that, like, someone was gonna, like, throw a rock or something through our window, like--and that didn't happen, like nothing happened, but it was just, like--I just, like, had such an anxiety about it.

[02:33:18] I started noticing, like, the difference between me and, like, the rest of the older Polish residents who live around us. Um...particularly like, when I started going to the Polish pharmacy, uh, that's on the corner, it's like a super-small family-owned pharmacy, and so like most of the clientele was like, uh, elderly Polish people from the neighborhood. Um--and, like, most of them are, if not all of them, are Polish Catholics. And there's like a pretty big Polish Catholic church nearby. Um, but like, I would go there pretty regularly, and...at one point I went in, and like--this--I was just like sitting there waiting for my prescription to be filled, uh, and this old Polish lady like looked at me, and like zoomed in, and was like, "Oh are you Polish?" And I am Polish, but I just like got this super weird vibe, uh, where I, like, didn't really want to tell her I was Polish because I felt like--I mean like, I don't speak Polish or anything, and I'm Jewish Polish, like I'm not Polish Catholic and I don't look like a Polish Catholic person, like I'm not blond--not that they're all blond, but. I look very, uh, I don't know. Like the stereotype of an Ashkenazi Jew is what I look like pretty much, so. I didn't want to tell her that I was, like, Polish and

Jewish, and I didn't want to tell her that I didn't speak Polish, so I said I was Hungarian, which is also true. Uh, and then she started going off about how she, like, loves Hungary, and loves Hungarian people, and like, loved visiting Budapest, which is, like, where my family is from, um, but I've never been there, so it was pretty weird.

[04:29:03] Like, I don't know, like, when we first moved here, like, we found out that like down the street there's, like, this really good Polish bakery, and so, like, we would go there and get pastries, but then like once people started putting up, uh, weird Polish nationalist flyers, and like, antisemitic flyers [laughs nervously] and stuff like that, like... Like, they would put them up outside the bakery--like, repeatedly, and like, I know 'cause we would all, like, go take them down, and then like, you know, a couple days later they'd be back, so we were like, okay, so this is, like, the Nazi bakery or whatever [laughs].

[04:58:19] So, the first flyers that I remember seeing were...flyers that were advertising this protest, um, that was like, encouraging non-Jewish Polish people to protest this legislation that was trying to give land and assets back to Polish Jews and their descendants whose land had been seized by Nazis during the Holocaust.

[05:24:14] So there were all these flyers, for--for protests, um...that we would tear down [laughs].

[05:31:05] No one really interacts with the Polish flyers, because they're...in Polish, um...and so a lot of people don't notice them. Uh...and like a lot of people don't care, because they're like, oh, this is just affecting, like, the old Polish people.

[05:49:18] There was, like, literally, like...a neo-Nazi who, like, held a dinner at a restaurant like, you know, three or four blocks from here. Uh, and so, like...that was...advertised [laughs incredulously] and like, I think like a hundred people, like, showed up at this restaurant, and like, uh... Like, journalists tried to get in, and were...turned away for like, "looking liberal"... Um.

[06:18:05] But it was like super...scary, like, knowing that there was like a hundred Nazis [laughs nervously] down the street, um... And so we were all, like, well, we're just gonna stay in the house, and, like, not leave.

[06:29:20] [Sound of Callie the cat licking her arm]

Bev: [06:31:23] I remember coming out of the subway, like, maybe a week ago, and I saw a guy, like [laughs] putting up...the same flyer that I had been ripping down [laughs], um. And it was like, pretty--pretty surreal, I just like saw him carrying a bunch of the posters, and at first I thought, like, "Oh, he's ripping them down too," and then I realized he was carrying, like, a stack of fresh posters, and I was like, oh my God, like, no, this is the person, like, putting them up... So I, like, went home...[laughs] and I waited, and then, like, later that evening I, like, went out [laughs] and started like taking down the posters he had put up.

[07:02:08] [Sounds of cars]

Bev: [07:05:08] Um...you know, we all take down all the flyers and stuff, but it's always like, well, if I go by myself and I rip down a flyer in front of a neo-Nazi, like, am I gonna get beat up? [Laughs] Um...

[07:23:05] I don't know, like, again, like--I don't know. Last year, like, you know, I was scared to put up the Hanukiah, but we did it anyway... This year, we're gonna do it again... Uh...and... [laughs]. I don't know. I live here too.

[07:42:21] [Sounds of cars]

[07:42:21-08:22:10] [*Mir Veln Zey Iberlebn* performed by Tisbele playing. It fades in as Bev smooths down the sticker, then plays over the credits and fades out.]qq