



Liesel's Story, Chapter 1

My name's Liesel Carter, it was Meier, and I was born in 1935 in a place called Hildesheim which is not far from where the Pied Piper of Hamlyn originated.

My talk is called Memories because I have three very very specific memories. One was going sledging with two boys, the other one was a doll and pram and the third one was the equivalent to a pantomime, a children's play. And this all happened in Norway.

My mother was already in England and I for some reason was left in Germany, she couldn't get the authorities to allow me to travel with her so I think I was left in a children's home or with friends. The people who my mother worked for in Hull had some connections and they were desperately trying to get me out of Germany. This is 1939. Apparently when war was declared in September '39 my mother was heard to say "Oh my poor Liesel, I'll never see her again". Anyway arrangements were made for me to come out of Germany via Holland and fortunately for me the arrangements fell through. One of the daughters of the family that my mother worked for had a friend whose sister was married to a Norwegian and they arranged for me to come out, aged 4, on what was called a Nansen passport. Nansen was an Antarctic explorer. Anyway I started travelling, at the age of 4, through Germany, Sweden and eventually arrived in Norway where I was living with a Norwegian family.