

**“Survivor,” from *The Unveiling* by Linda Ayres-Frederick**

**Herschel: Male 40-60, Eastern European Jew. He was a capo in the concentration camp whose job was to decide who would go into the ovens.**

**He is responding to his daughter, who has accused him of abandoning her mother to the Nazis.**

Let them? What do you think these people were? Humans? And us? You think these animals treated us like we were humans? No, no. No one at all was a human being. And how do you survive when you are treated like an animal is you become an animal. Only with God's help more cunning than their cunning. And you wait and you listen for a time to run and when it is time to run, you run. You run as fast as you possibly can and you don't look back. And that is what we did, your cousin and I. Yes, we left her. Yes, we ran. We ran when we had the opportunity so we did not have to see her and she did not have to see us suffer any longer. Not just the pain but the unspeakable humiliation. Now you see why I must confess! You see now, don't you? I see it in your eyes. Don't you look away from me!