

# THE APARTMENT

A Century of Russian History

  
КВАРТИРА  
ОБРАЗЦОВОГО  
СОДЕРЖАНИЯ  
И ВЫСОКОЙ  
КУЛЬТУРЫ БЫТА

АЛЕКСАНДРА  
ЛИТВИНА  
НАПИСАЛА  
ТЕКСТ

Аня Десницкая  
НАРИСОВАЛА КАРТИНКИ

ШТРЕЙК

У.С.УВ.П.О.С.

ОПЛИК  
2 ЗАМКА

14

СКОРМ

Includes  
a search-and-find  
game and hundreds  
of objects to  
discover!



By  
**ALEXANDRA LITVINA**

Illustrated by  
**ANNA DESNITSKAYA**



# КУЛАКИ ПРИЗЫВАЮТ КРЕСТЬЯН К МАССОВОМУ

Ими распространяются дикие, провокационные слухи о том, что начнется насильственная сплошная коллективизация и отбор

Парторганизации и сельсоветы не ведут разъяснительной работы среди крестьян и не дают отпора кулацкой провокации.

Выше классовую бдительность по кулачеству. Заставить кулака систематической работой о решениях партии.

**Рассеять кулацкие провокационные слухи**  
Баранцевская парторганизация и сельсовет мало уделяют внимания вопреки

**Закон правительства**  
К строжайшей ответственности нарушителей закона!

**ПЕНСИОНЕР, ПОМНИ!**  
Пенсия выплачивается ежемесячно по личному требованию.  
В случае перемены места жительства или адреса немедленно сообщать свой адрес профсоюзной организации, от которой он получает пенсию.  
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Февральская революция застала меня на Кавказском фронте, где я избираюсь председателем революционного комитета полка и членом корпусного комитета. Таким образом я активно включился в борьбу за дело рабочего класса.

## МОСКОВСКИЙ Городской Отдел Народного Образования

**ТАБЕЛЬ**  
оценки знаний, поведения и прилежания ученика  
школы № 435 гор. Москвы

Дана гр-ну Иосифу Ивановичу Действительно профессору "Стефану" на площади гр-на Книжки до I мая 1930 г. Справка выдана

Коммунистический Поселок "Старый Большевик"

Извещение об...  
Всесоюзная...  
Почта  
Заметка...  
В связи с...  
лет, в г...  
лет.  
Заметка...  
в этом уже...  
Ф-ки «К...  
лочь не...  
статуса



если бы такое положение существовало только по Уриновскому сельсовету. Такая картина наблюдается по многим сельсоветам.

**Окунев — кулацкий подпевала**  
В Дидяковском сельсовете крестьянин Окунев стремится сорвать проведение хлебозаготовок и кампания по мобилизации средств. Везде и всюду он выступает на собраниях с агитацией против мероприятий советской власти и призывает крестьян не слушать коммунистов.  
Агитации Окунева надо положить конец. Бригадир.

ММП УХП БО  
ФАБРИКА  
ХУДОЖЕСТВЕН  
ИЗДЕЛИЙ  
г. Бобруйск  
ул. Гоголя, 4



Курек...  
Илья...  
ТТ...  
Е. П. Кра...





# THE APARTMENT

**A Century of Russian History**

*Text by*

**ALEXANDRA LITVINA**

*Illustrations by*

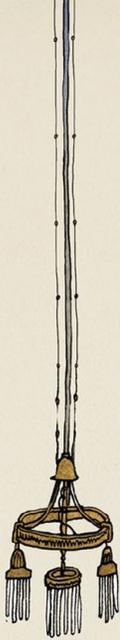
**ANNA DESNITSKAYA**

*Translation by*

**ANTONINA W. BOUIS**



*Abrams Books for Young Readers • New York*



## To our grandmothers and grandfathers

The illustrations in this book were made with watercolor, ink, Micron pens, and Photoshop.

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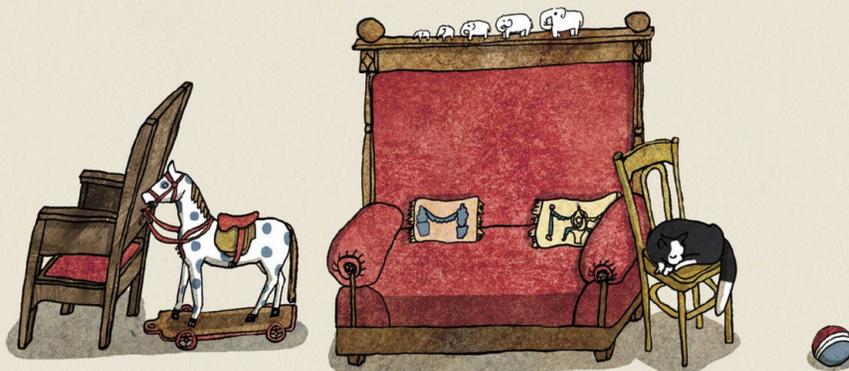


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[abramsbooks.com](http://abramsbooks.com)



Not long before the Muromtsevs' moved to their new apartment, their furniture was delivered. It would live a long life there. Some things would last to the end of the twentieth century; others would not. Follow the life of the objects: which ones served their owners for a hundred years, and which ones vanished? What could have happened to them?

When you see a sign like this  next to an object, look for it in the rooms on later pages.



ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THE MUROMTSEV FAMILY. WHERE EACH FAMILY MEMBER APPEARS IN THIS BOOK IS INDICATED BY THE PAGE NUMBERS IN PARENTHESES.



Ilya Stepanovich  
Muromtsev  
1872-1942

(6, 8, 10, 16, 19, 22, 25, 29, 47)



Elena Nikolayevna  
Muromtseva  
1874-1952

(6, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 25, 27, 47)



Maria Nikolayevna  
Volokhonskaya  
1865-1918

(7, 8, 10)



François Dupuy  
1890-1976



Irina Muromtseva  
1896-1993

(6, 8, 10, 11, 15, 45, 47)



Sergei Voloshin  
1892-1923

(8, 10, 15)



Nikolai (Nikolka,  
Nikolanka) Muromtsev  
1907-1942

(8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, 21, 22, 29, 47)



Nelli Muromtseva  
1910-1982

(21, 22, 25, 27, 30, 39)



Mark Dupuy  
1930-2008



Sergo Ninoshvili  
1921-2005

(27, 30, 35, 36, 39,  
42, 45, 47, 50, 52)



Tamara (Toma)  
Muromtseva  
1929-2005

(21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 32,  
34, 39, 42, 45, 47, 48, 51, 52)



Mikhail Kotlyar  
1922-1943

(29)



Lida  
Muromtseva  
1926-1975

(21, 23, 25, 27,  
28, 30, 39)



Raisa  
Tikhomirova  
1930-2010

(49)



Jean-Paul Dupuy  
b. 1972  
(52)



David Ninoshvili  
b. 1963  
(39, 40, 42, 45, 47, 52)



Genka Muromtsev  
b. 1953  
(34, 37, 39, 41, 42,  
45, 49, 51, 52)



Tanya Muromtseva  
b. 1953 (39, 41, 42, 45, 49, 51, 52)



Olya Ninoshvili  
b. 1993  
(52)



Trezor  
(1898-1910)  
(1, 2, 6)



Vaska  
1900-1904  
(7)



Strelka  
1960-1978  
(34, 39, 42)



Abram Naumovich  
Shtein  
1880-1941  
(29)



Ester Girshevna Shtein  
1886-1941  
(29)



Efrosinia (Nanny)  
Nikiforovna Shestova  
1861-1932  
(6, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, 27)



Marfa Petrovna  
Simonova (Cook)  
1875-1920  
(7, 9)



Marusya (Babmusya)  
Muromtseva  
1910-2009  
(9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 27,  
28, 30, 33, 34, 39, 45, 52)



Nyuma (Veniamin,  
Numa) Shtein  
1906-1985  
(20, 22, 30, 32, 34, 39)



Stepan Simonov  
1895-1945  
(19, 29)



Praskovya Simonova  
1897-1976  
(16, 19, 26)



Lena Shtein  
1916-2011  
(30, 33, 34, 37, 39, 52)



Friedrich (Fedya)  
Shtein  
b. 1937  
(20, 27, 31, 33, 34, 36,  
39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 52)



Katya Shtein  
b. 1945  
(27)



Antonina (Tonya) Simonova  
1918-1980  
(19, 18, 19, 26)



Petya Simonov  
1917-1941  
(17, 18, 19, 29)



Anya  
Muromtseva  
b. 1986  
(45, 49, 51, 52)



Sasha  
Muromtseva  
b. 1979  
(44, 47, 48, 51, 52)



Mitya (Mitka)  
Muromtsev  
b. 1975  
(45, 46, 50, 52)



Sonya Muromtseva  
b. 1974  
(50, 52)



Jane (Zhenya) Shtein  
b. 1978  
(52)



Murych  
1990-2002  
(49, 51)



Murzik  
1950-1954  
(30)



Mashka  
1930-1939  
(21, 22)



Trishka  
1911-1915  
(8, 10, 15)



Ilyusha Muromtsev  
b. 1996  
(52)

# Irina Muromtseva

October 12

## 1902

"Trezor! Tre-zor! Here, boy! Bad dog!"

Our poodle leaps out of the carriage and jumps around the unfamiliar porter, barking loudly. Papa would have been happy to grab Trezor by the collar, but Nanny's trunk is on his lap, and he can't move. We're moving into a new apartment in a big new building, which is why the porter is unfamiliar. He is as strong and respectable as Nikanor was in our old house on Samotechnaya Street and has the same full beard as Nikanor, too. This new porter is not at all frightened by Trezor. He ignores the dog and easily picks up Nanny's trunk and carries it up the stairs.

The new apartment smells of paint, glue, and wax, as if the floors have just been polished. All the furniture, baskets, suitcases, and bundles have been unloaded and set up in their places—even mother's piano, the rubber plant in its pot, and all my dolls! Our old things seem new, a bit strange and unfamiliar. And now I'll have a big nursery, and Papa will have his own study, and we'll have hot water from the tap in the bathroom! The room next to the nursery goes to Aunt Maria Nikolayevna, Mama's big sister. She moved in with us recently, and I'm a little afraid of her: She has a very severe look. Even Mama seems shy around her. But today, Auntie has changed: She smiles gently and sings to herself. I think the new place will bring us all a great deal of joy!



Irina's doll carriage



Slippers

Papa's study

Aunt Maria Nikolayevna unpacking

Aunt Maria's room

Main entrance

Living room

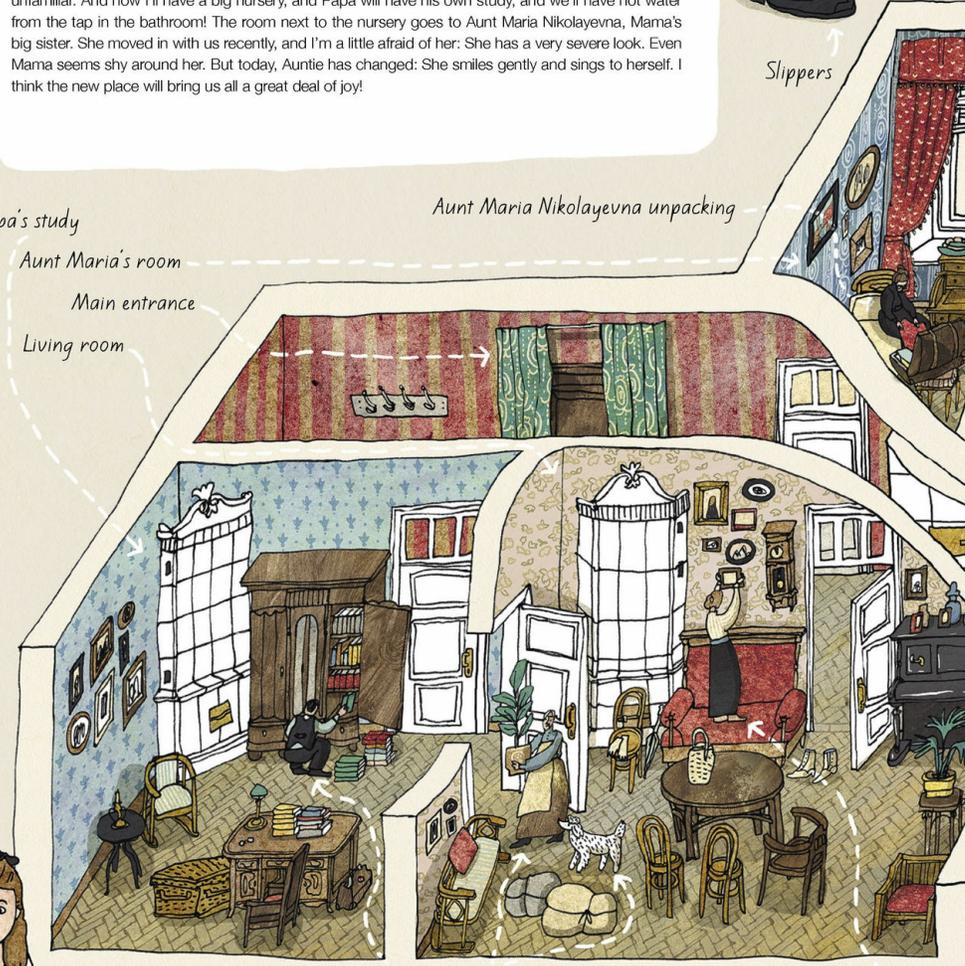


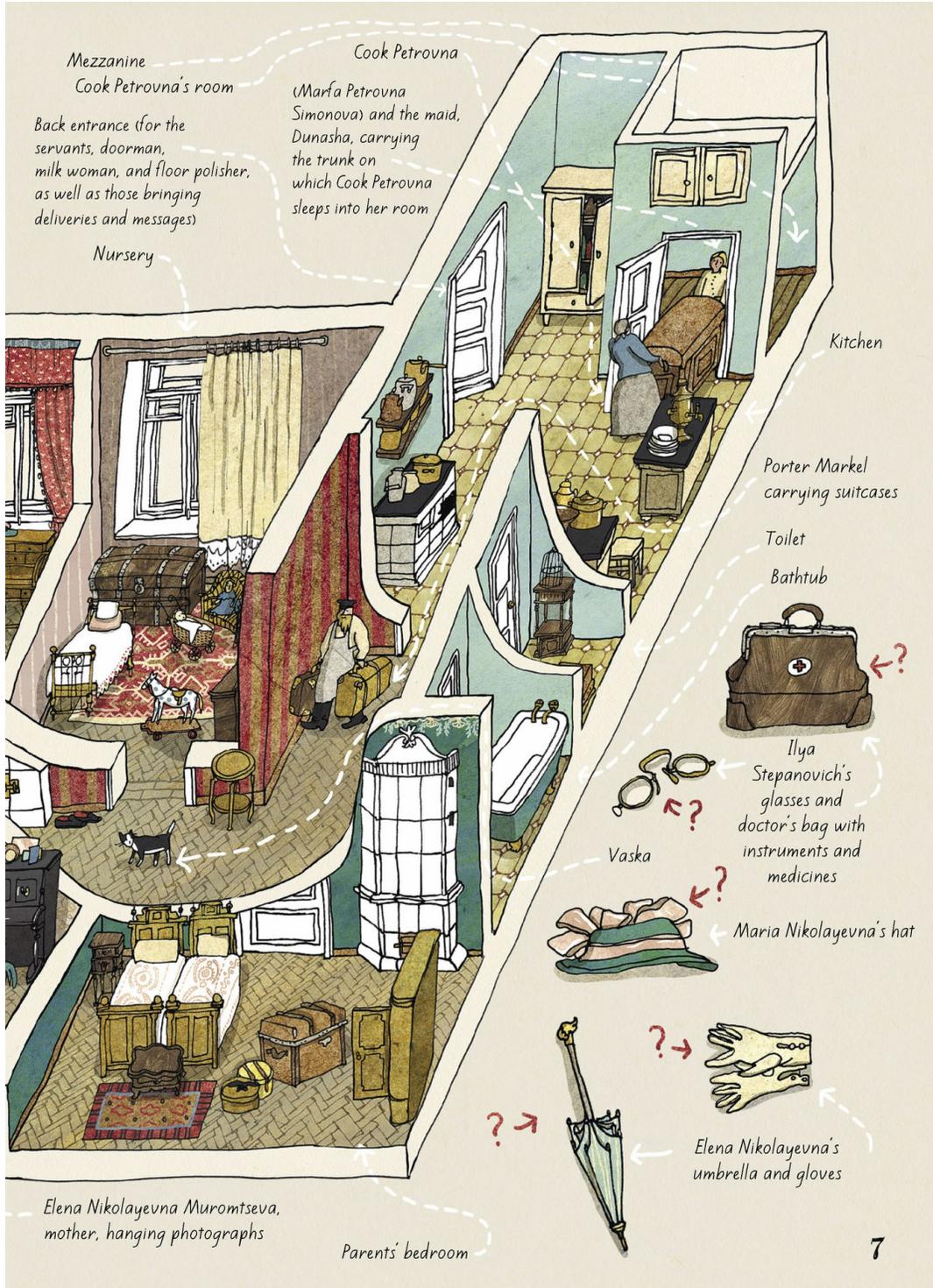
Irina Muromtseva

Ilya Stepanovich Muromtsev,  
father, unpacking books

Trezor

Nanny Nikiforovna (Efrosinia  
Nikiforovna Shestova) carrying  
a ficus plant





Mezzanine  
Cook Petrovna's room

Back entrance (for the servants, doorman, milk woman, and floor polisher, as well as those bringing deliveries and messages)

Nursery

Cook Petrovna

(Marfa Petrovna Simonova) and the maid, Dunasha, carrying the trunk on which Cook Petrovna sleeps into her room

Kitchen

Porter Markel carrying suitcases

Toilet  
Bathtub



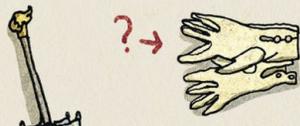
Ilya Stepanovich's glasses and doctor's bag with instruments and medicines



Vaska



Maria Nikolayevna's hat



Elena Nikolayevna's umbrella and gloves



Elena Nikolayevna Muromtseva, mother, hanging photographs

Parents' bedroom



## *Nikolai Muromtsev*

*December 25*

**1914** Christmas! Delicious smells come from the kitchen, and candles are already lit on the tree we brought yesterday from the market in Theater Square. Snow falls outside the window. We won't have a big children's party this year. Only the two Volkova sisters, Marusya's friends, have come over with their nanny. The nanny went straight to the kitchen to have tea, and Mama sat at the piano, and the girls started singing: "My Lizoček is so small, is so small, is so small." Boring! And all because there's a war and Papa is on the frontlines healing the wounded. It's not a holiday without him. Last year, we played charades and hide-and-seek and a new board game with planes and airships! Then we danced the polka and mazurka, and then Mama played a march loudly and Papa took down toys and gingerbread from the tree and gave them to our guests.

They say the war will be over very soon, and the Germans and Austrians will never get to Paris or Warsaw. The newspapers write that this is the Second Patriotic War, and Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm



It will end up just like Napoleon. We have to help our heroes as best we can: Mama goes to the workshop to pluck lint to make bandages. Irina signed up for nursing courses, and Marusya and I put all our pocket money into a cup for the Red Cross—a half-ruble, three fifteen-kopek coins, and two rubles. I “arrested” Marusya’s big German doll as a spy and wanted to shoot her, but Marusya let out a howl! Nanny came running and took away the doll. But the German spies are everywhere! At the front, and at the capital in St. Petersburg and even here in Moscow! I explained that to Mama, but she said that the doll was innocent and that Mr. Seidler from the Viennese bakery was not a spy but a third-generation Russian citizen who helps the Red Cross.

We were setting the holiday table when the doorbell rang! Who could it be? Nanny answered the door and gasped loudly. There was Papa, coming into the living room in boots and an overcoat!

# 1914

The war Russia entered on August 1, 1914, would later be called World War I. It encompassed all of Europe and lasted a long four years. It was not only two or three countries that were fighting among themselves, but also allies of those countries. On one side: England, France, and Russia. On the other: Germany and Austria-Hungary. Each side was joined by numerous allies, from Brazil to China! They fought on land, at sea, and even in the air. The armies lost more than ten million people combined, and many civilians were also killed.



German soldiers



Russian soldiers



French soldiers

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WOUNDED, AND THERE ARE HOSPITALS EVERYWHERE. HOW DO YOU MANAGE?

ILIYA, HOW ARE THINGS AT THE FRONT?

IT'S HELL! THERE AREN'T ENOUGH UNIFORMS AND BOOTS. THE SOLDIERS ARE FREEZING IN THE TRENCHES. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEDICAL SUPPLIES. THE LOSSES ARE ENORMOUS.

PAPA, TELL US ABOUT THE WAR!



Irina  
Trishka

Elena Nikolayevna  
Muromtseva, mother

Ilya Stepanovich  
Muromtsev, father of  
Irina, Nikolenka, and Marusya

Nikolenka  
Marusya

Aunt Maria  
Nikolayevna



Airplane

Efrosinia  
Nikiforovna, nanny

HOW IS MY GRISHA DOING FIGHTING THE GERMANS?



Newspaper asking for book donations for the soldiers

## ЖЕРТВУИТЕ НА КНИГУ—СОЛДАТУ.

Отъ всеобщаго широтнаго комитета Краснаго Креста снабженія раненыхъ произведеніями печати. Позиціонный характеръ войны за послѣдній періодъ выдвинулъ самую насущную нужду арміи, какъ солдату, такъ и офицеру нужна книга. Каждый изъ насъ долженъ немедленно принять участие въ удовлетвореніи духовныхъ запросовъ, ващцающихся нашу родину и насъ. Длительные часы пребыванія въ окопахъ, живя въ землянкахъ, дальность расстоянія отъ культурныхъ центровъ, — все это можетъ быть скрашено книгой. Комитетъ снабженія раненыхъ произведеніями печати получилъ разрѣшеніе отъ Главнокомандующаго снабдить армію солдатскими и офицерскими бібліотеками. Въ своемъ разрѣшеніи Главнокомандующій сообщаетъ, что считаетъ снабженіе

IN HARD TIMES, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS ECONOMIZING. MAGAZINES ARE PRINTING RECIPES FOR CHEAP MEALS. TODAY, I HAD THE COOK MAKE DRACHENA, A KIND OF CAKE, FOR DESSERT. HERE'S THE RECIPE I COPIED FROM MODNY SVET (FASHIONABLE WORLD).

### Drachena

In a bowl, whip 1/8 lb butter. In another bowl, beat 3 eggs with 1/2 cup sugar. Mix in with the butter and add 1/2 tsp salt and 2 cups flour. Mix together and gradually add in 2 cups milk. Melt 1 tbs of butter in a large frying pan. Pour in dough and cook on a stovetop for about 30 minutes. Serve with jam.

\* 1/8 lb of butter equals 4 tbs



Two rubles



A half-ruble



Three fifteen-kopek coins

END THIS WAR! THE PEOPLE DON'T NEED IT. RUSSIAN WORKERS ARE FIGHTING GERMAN WORKERS WHEN THEY SHOULD BE JOINING TOGETHER TO FIGHT THE CAPITALISTS AND THE BLOODTHIRSTY TSAR.

FIRST, WE CHASE OUT THE ENEMY. THEN WE'LL DEAL WITH THE TSAR. TODAY, WE MUST UNITE AND DEFEND OUR HOMELAND.

A SOCIALIST HAS NO HOMELAND!

Sergei Voloshin,  
Irina's fiancé

Cake



Igor,  
Sergei's friend



Papa's favorite cup



Crystal sugar bowl holding sugar cubes



Samovar

These are the kinds of desserts that were sold in Mr. Seidler's Viennese pastry shop. How sad that he had shut down the store after the pogrom!



Gaiters—like thick socks with buttons



Muff



Papa's warm felt boots



Red boots and a white embroidered school collar



The Volkova sisters

I AM WEARING A SAILOR SHIRT AND SHORTS. LYUBA VOLKOVA IS DRESSED IN THE LATEST FASHION, WEARING THE COLORS OF THE COUNTRIES THAT WERE ALLIED WITH RUSSIA DURING THE WAR.

I SENT A CHRISTMAS CARD TO NATASHA, OUR FRIEND FROM THE COUNTRY HOUSE, AND MARUSYA TEASED ME ABOUT BEING IN LOVE!



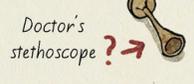
Nikolka's letter wishes Natasha "Happy New Year!"



AT THE WORKSHOP ON ILYINKA STREET, WE PUT TOGETHER UP TO TEN THOUSAND BANDAGE PACKETS EACH DAY.



Inkwell and three pens



Doctor's stethoscope



Irina plucking lint to make bandages



Ink blotter

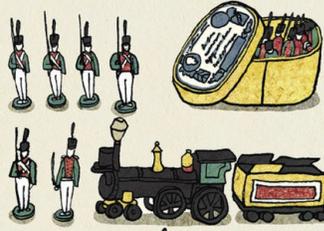


Tree ornaments



Pony on wheels

Toy soldiers



The dolls have porcelain heads, hands, and feet, and their bodies are stuffed with sawdust.

These are the toys Nikolka and Marusya got for Christmas.



*Marusya Muromtseva*  
February 21

**1919** This year, Nikolka and I did not go ice-skating or to visit anyone on Epiphany because Mama sees her friends almost every day in “tails,” or lines. There are lines waiting for bread, dried fish, and kerosene, as well as lines at the commissary, where you can get cabbage soup with a coupon, and at the housing office, where you can get firewood with a coupon. We got two bundles of firewood for February. We were so careful with it, but we ran out before the month was half over! So we burned all the old magazines and the chairs. Nanny wanted to burn Papa’s books, but Mama said they were not to be touched.

Nicolka keeps coughing. He’s had a fever for three days. Mama had to run to Samotechnaya Street to get a doctor because she couldn’t find a carriage and the trams were not operating. Dr. Ignatov, Father’s old friend, came. He shook his head: “Pneumonia. But I can’t recommend our hospital—it’s chaos there. The wards are full of typhus. And the aides have meetings and rallies every



day, you see. You're better off at home for now." He prescribed milk and broth for Nikolka. Mama and Nanny whispered together, and then they moved the rug. They got out the silver spoons—Mama's dowry—from under it and wrapped them in a rag. In the morning, Mama went to the flea market. Nanny and I hauled up water from the downstairs neighbors—our pipes had burst, but theirs were still holding up. We lit the stove, boiled some water, and made Nikolka carrot tea, and then we waited. It got dark, so we lit the lamp. Comrade Orlik, the man who the Narkompros sent to live with us, came in and went to his room, Papa's former study. Mama came home crying. She had traded the spoons for a piece of horsemeat, but on the way home, she was attacked in the alley by a pack of stray dogs. She dropped the meat and barely got away herself. I was brave and did not cry.

"It's all right, dear," Nanny said. "We'll manage somehow, and before you know it, Ilya Stepanovich will be back."

**1919** World War I ended in 1918. Germany was defeated. But even before the end of the war, life in Russia was changed irreversibly. Two revolutions took place in 1917, in February and October. In February, the tsar abdicated and Russia became a republic. The country was to be ruled by a parliament—the Constitutional Assembly—formed by general elections. But the Provisional Government, which had representatives of various parties, postponed the election several times. In November, the Bolshevik Party, headed by Vladimir Lenin, took power.

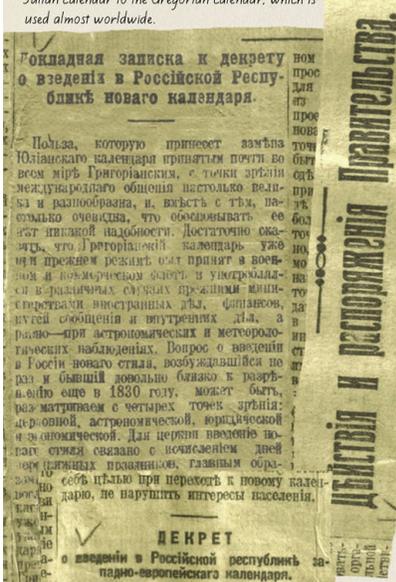
The Bolsheviks declared Russia a Soviet Republic, with administrators elected from bodies of workers and peasants. Not everyone liked the regime. The Russian Civil War broke out between the Bolsheviks (the Reds) and their opponents (the Whites). But some people took advantage of the chaos to steal and kill without punishment.



Bolshevik poster



Newspapers explaining Russia's transition from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, which is used almost worldwide.



WE WILL CONQUER COLD, HUNGER, AND DARKNESS. THERE WON'T BE ANY OPPRESSED OR ILLITERATE PEOPLE. WORKERS OF THE WORLD WILL RISE UP, FOLLOWING OUR EXAMPLE.

COMRADE ORLIK, WHO WILL MANAGE THE BANKS AND FACTORIES?

THE PROLETARIAT WILL TAKE THINGS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.



Customary commissar leather jacket  
Jodhpurs

Comrade Orlik

Comrade Nikitina (Lyalya)

IN 1918, THE NEW CALENDAR WAS INTRODUCED: FEBRUARY 14 CAME THE DAY AFTER JANUARY 31!



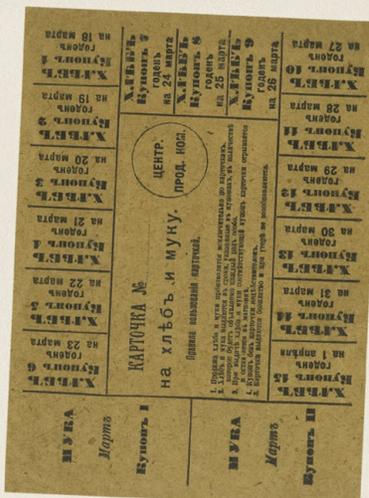
Leon Trotsky  
A Bolshevik and one of the organizers of the October Revolution. Led the Red Army in 1918. Expelled from the Soviet Union in 1929.



Vladimir Lenin  
Head of the Bolshevik Party and of the Soviet state. Leader of the October Revolution.

Petya Ostrovsky, an art student studying in Moscow





Ration card for bread and flour

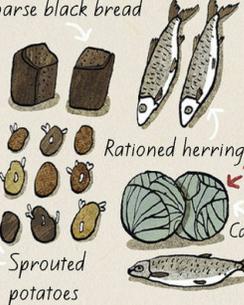
The Muromsk use their ration cards to get bread and herring and use coupons to get meatless cabbage soup from the commissary. The ration cards are given out by category, and workers get the highest rations. Sometimes, there is nothing left for the non-laboring people.

LET'S TRY TO PICK OUT THE BEST POTATOES.

THEY'RE ALMOST ALL ROTTEN.

WE'LL CUT OUT THE ROTTEN PARTS.

Coarse black bread



Rationed herring

Cabbage

Sprouted potatoes



Erosinia Nikiforovna, nanny

Nikolenka Trishka

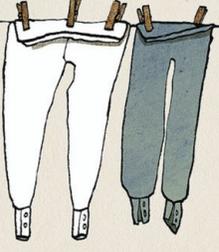
Elena Nikolayevna

Marusya

TYPHUS IS CONTAGIOUS AND VERY DANGEROUS. THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE MEDICINE FOR IT RIGHT NOW.



The water pipes freeze from the cold, so the family has to carry heavy cans and pails of water from the neighbors' apartment downstairs.



This iron stove is called a burzhuika, which means "little bourgeois." They say it's because the bourgeois, or the capitalist class, don't have firewood for a kitchen stove or ordinary stove anymore. This stove is used to heat the room and for cooking. The burzhuika doesn't need much wood, but it also doesn't provide much heat. When there is no wood, the family burns old books and magazines, furniture, and pickets from fences.



Photograph of Irina and Sergei, which they sent from Rostov, where Sergei joined the White Army

I AM ELENA NIKOLAYEVNA'S FAVORITE POET. IN MAY 1918, SHE BORROWED MY NEW POEM, "THE TWELVE," FROM A FRIEND AND COPIED IT INTO HER NOTEBOOK.



Aleksandr Blok

Они згасли въ згасио  
Протамуть кашанъ.  
На канатъ-писанъ:  
«Вся власть Уредителннму Собранию!»  
Старушка уживаетъ-плететъ;  
Никакъ не пойметъ, что зночитъ,  
На это такой плакатъ,  
Такой ограмный листокъ?  
Скільки би внишо портманкъ для ребятъ,  
А великй - раздѣтъ, разуть...  
Старушка, какъ курица,  
Кий-какъ перешитиуласе черезъ сурьба.  
- Охъ, Матушка-Заступница!  
- Охъ, большевики загонятъ въ гробъ!



*Petya Simonov*  
*May 23*

**1927** What a hassle today! I went to the kitchen to see if there was any food. Mama was doing laundry in there and yelled at me: "Why are you wandering around doing nothing? Sit down with Tonya and do your math homework!" Just then, Madam Orlik strode into the kitchen and started shouting at the doctor's wife for burning her new silk stockings with her Primus stove. "Well, don't hang your stockings over other people's stoves!" Nanny Nikiforovna said. The doctor's wife was silent, and she looked totally miserable. She's a fine lady—teaches Tonya piano—but she can't stand up for herself. If not for Nanny Nikiforovna, Madam Orlik would have ranted a long time. The Muromtsevs used to have the whole place to themselves, but now a few families live here together. Just as I sat down with my exercise book, in came Olga Petukhova and Marusya, the doctor's daughter. They wound up the record player and started whirling and swirling, dancing the tango. At that, old lady Shuiskaya, one of the tenants, looked out from her room. "What's all that noise?" she asked.



I'm not surprised about Olga, but what's with Marusya?

Sonya Gordon let them have it: "A woman must be e-man-ci-pa-ted! Down with the vestiges of the past! Bourgeois society sees women as goods in a shop window, which is what you are de-mon-strating, Comrade Petukhova, with your depraved dancing. Don't you feel ashamed?"

"No," replied Olga. "On the contrary, I like it very much. As for you, citizen Gordon, you should watch yourself. Certain lovebirds loiter under the windows, talking all night and not letting working people sleep."

Sonya turned red. "How dare you! The comrade and I were discussing the female question in light of Bebel's works!"

"We understand that, sweetheart. I, too, would like some Bebelizing after a hard day!" That was Petukhov trying to support his wife.

What can you do with these inconsiderate people—there's no way you can study around them!

# 1927

The Bolsheviks won the Russian Civil War in 1922. The government declared that the land, factories, and industrial plants belonged to the people, but in fact, they became state property. Private trade and property were banned as relics of capitalism. The former economy was destroyed. The Bolsheviks began confiscating excess grain from the peasants. In 1922, the harvest was poor, and a terrible famine spread through the country, mostly concentrated in the Volga region in southwestern Russia. Almost five million people died of hunger. People streamed to the cities in search of work. Even people who had supported the new regime joined protests. The Bolsheviks were forced to establish the New Economic Policy (NEP). Once again, private trade and small business were allowed. People who engaged in such business were called NEPmen. Life began to smooth out, but the country was still lagging behind the leading developed countries. Young people were called upon to actively participate in building a new life.

In December 1922, a new state was established—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR. It was made up of several republics: Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia (now Belarus), and the Transcaucasian Republic (later divided into Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan). In 1924, Vladimir Lenin (the leader of the USSR) died, and Joseph Stalin rose to power.

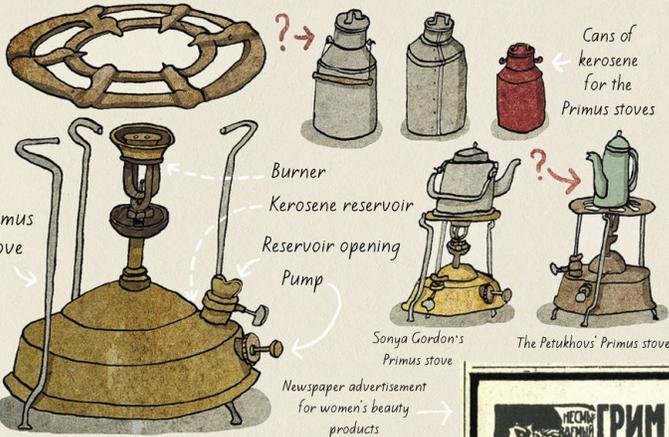


Lenin's Mausoleum



The Muromtsev's Primus stove

The Simonov's Primus stove



Now, every family in the apartment has its own Primus stove. The stoves make a lot of noise and smoke, and they cook food very slowly. To light one, you have to pump kerosene from its reservoir into its burner and then strike a match over it.

Olga Petukhova



UNDER THE NEP, NEW RICH PEOPLE APPEARED — WE CALLED THEM NEPMEN. EVEN THOUGH IT'S HARD TO SUSTAIN A GOOD ECONOMY WITHOUT PRIVATE TRADE AND MANUFACTURING, EVERYONE HATED THE NEPMEN. PEOPLE THOUGHT THEY WERE VESTIGES OF THE PAST AND MOCKED THEM FOR BEING GREEDY.

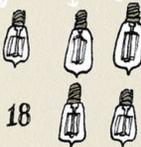
!!! Остерегайтесь подделок !!!  
**ЛУЧШАЯ БЕЗВРЕДНАЯ ЖИДКАЯ КРАСКА ДЛЯ БРОВЕЙ, РЕСНИЦ, ВОЛОС**  
 моментально окрашивает в любой цвет, не пачкает, не смывается 5—6 недель  
**„ОРЭАЛЬ“ — „БАСМА-ХЕНЭ“**  
 для бровей на год 3 р., полгода 2 р., для волос 3 р. 50 к. и 4 р. 50 к.,  
**„ХНА БАСМОЛЬ“** для бровей на год 2 руб. 50 коп.,  
 полгода 1 р. 50 к., для волос 3 р.  
 Высылается наложенным платежом  
 Лаборатория кооператива „ОРЭАЛЬ“, Москва, Тверская, 68/4.



Ilyich light bulbs

Kerosene lamp

Vera Pavlovna Shuiskaya



NEW POWER STATIONS ARE BEING BUILT IN THE COUNTRY UNDER THE GOELRO PLAN. THE "ILYICH LAMP" WORKS WELL IN EVERY APARTMENT NOW, BUT THE RESIDENTS KEEP SOME KEROSENE LAMPS AND CANDLES JUST IN CASE.

WHEN I GROW UP, I'LL BE A PILOT!

I WANT TO BE A PILOT, TOO!

YOU'RE A GIRL.



SO WHAT IF SHE'S A GIRL?

Tonya Simonova, Petya's sister

Petya Simonov

**САМОУЧИТЕЛЬ**  
КНИЖКИ МУЖСКОГО

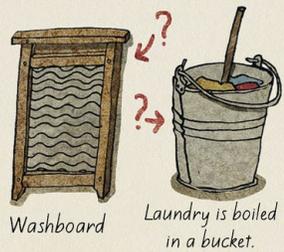
**ДАМСКИХ НАРЯДОВ**  
ЕДИНСТВЕННОЕ РУКОВОДСТВО НОЖИИ

НОВАЯ КНИГА  
Д. Х. ЛЕВИТАНУС.

**ПОСЛЕДНЯЯ МОДА ПАРИЖА**  
**ОЖЕРЕБЬЕ ИЗ ЖЕЛЧУГА** ТИП А "КЕГЛА"

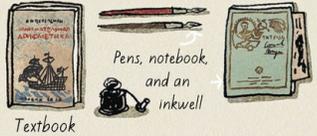
КОЖУХИ, МАССОВЫЕ, ТАЖОЛОВЫЕ, ВО БЪЯШ, ВО ОТДЕЧ, ОТ НЕГОШЧ.  
42 САНТ., С СЕРЕБР., ВАЖК. — 9 РУБ., 80 САНТ., С СЕРЕБР., ВАЖК. — 11 Р.,  
65 САНТ., С СЕРЕБР., ВАЖК. — 14 Р., 180 САНТ., 28 Р., 100 САНТ. — 27 Р.,  
170 САНТ. — 31 Р. ОДЕЖДА ФАБРИК, ТИПА "КЕГЛА" СЕРЕБР., ПОСЛЕДНИ ОДЕЖ.  
БРОДН. — 4 Р. ВО К. УПАКОВКА, ПРЕДЕЛАЕТ СТОИМОСТЬ ПОСЛЕДНИ ОДЕЖ.  
ИДЕАЛО. ЗВОНИТЕ НАША ДИПЛОМ. ПУТЕШЕСТВИЯ 40, ЛУНАВИНСКОМУ  
10, КА. 6/Ж. А. ШТЕЙН.

WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO MOVE INTO SMALLER QUARTERS IN OUR OWN APARTMENT SEVERAL TIMES. NOW, THERE ARE SIX DIFFERENT FAMILIES LIVING IN THE APARTMENT. IT IS CROWDED, AND EVERYONE IS UNCOMFORTABLE. IN THE MORNINGS, THERE ARE LONG LINES FOR THE TOILET AND THE BATHROOM, AND SQUABBLES BREAK OUT IN THE KITCHEN ALL DAY LONG. BUT IT'S VERY HARD TO FIND A ROOM IN MOSCOW, SO WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THIS PLACE.



Newspaper advertisements for clothing, tailoring, and jewelry

В далёкой знойной Аргентине,  
Где небо южное так синее,  
Там женщины как на картине,  
Там Дхо влюбился в Кло...



NO WAY! MORE TALK ABOUT OPPORTUNISM AND THE LEFTIST OPPOSITION? ZAITSEV INVITED ME TO GO SEE A MOVIE!



I WORK AS A TRAM CONDUCTOR. AS A REWARD FOR MY HARD WORK, I WAS GIVEN FABRIC FOR A DRESS. IT'S A HIGH-QUALITY TEXTILE.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO OBLIVIOUS! YOU'VE DROPPED ALL YOUR OLD FRIENDS. THAT ZAITSEV IS A BAD INFLUENCE!

NOT AT ALL, SONYA. HE READS ME ESENIN'S POETRY!



I AM A PIONEER, A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION. THE KIDS FROM OUR TROOP CREATED AN OUTPOST IN THE COURTYARD WITH THE LIBRARY. WE BROUGHT BOOKS AND A PROJECTOR TO SCREEN MOVIES.





*Toma Muromtseva*

*October 12*

**1937**

I woke up during the night because Fedya was crying. It was still dark outside. "You're tormenting the baby again! He's hungry!" Grandmother told Aunt Marusya.

"Elena Nikolayevna, how can you say that?" Uncle Nyuma answered from behind the wardrobe. "You're a cultured woman! Friedrich needs to be fed strictly on schedule."

"Your scientific methods are keeping the girls from getting enough sleep, and then they'll be late for school! Nikolai, why are you quiet? Say something!" Mama said.

While they argued, Fedya kept crying. And then the doorbell rang: two long, one short. That wasn't for us; it was for the neighbors, the Orliks. For my best friend, Iskra. Who would come that late? Maybe the mailman with a telegram? Several pairs of boots walked down the hall and past our door. No, that wasn't a telegram. Maybe comrades from work? Fedya cried even louder. At last, Aunt



Marusya picked him up, and he quieted down. On the other side of the wall, something fell and broke in the Orliks' room. Eventually, I fell asleep. The next morning was normal, but everyone was very quiet for some reason. I didn't finish my porridge, but Mama didn't say anything. Grandfather and Papa didn't argue over who would read the paper first. Uncle Nyuma did his exercises silently. I really like it when he sings loudly in the morning: "My Homeland Is Vast" and "The Happy Wind." You don't need a record player with Uncle Nyuma around! I decided to run to see the neighbors. I wanted to show Iskra my new armband with a red cross, which meant I was now a nurse in our troop. I also wanted to find out who came to visit her family last night. But before I could leave, Grandmother came in. Everyone froze, waiting to hear what she had to say.

"Trouble at the Orliks'. Lev Orlik was arrested."

# 1937

When the Bolsheviks came to power, they hoped that there would be revolutions all over the world and that popular governments would rise up. Gradually, it became clear that this new world would have to be built only in the USSR. Industrialization began in 1928: large-scale construction of plants to manufacture machines, tractors, and weapons. A five-year development plan was created. It required enormous efforts to fulfill it, and the shock workers initiative started—workers pledged to fulfill and overfulfill the plan by any means.

Peasants were forced to join *kolkhozes*, collective farms, which had to turn over almost all their produce to the state. Those who wanted to continue working the land on their own were branded “kulaks.” Their property was taken away, and they were sent to Siberia, a very cold and desolate area that comprised much of the eastern part of the USSR. In 1931, famine returned in Ukraine and the Volga region, and many peasants once again moved to the cities in search of work.

Mistakes and failures were explained as the work of spies. Most of the “spies” were actually innocent citizens forced to confess to trumped-up charges. They were “found” everywhere, arrested, and then they were executed or sent to the camps, where they had to make amends for their “guilt” with unbearable work.

In 1934, Sergei Kirov, a high-ranking Communist leader, was assassinated. Joseph Stalin claimed that this was part of a vast conspiracy to assassinate Soviet leaders and began an intense campaign, known as the Great Purge, to root out and kill the conspirators. This eliminated many people who were politically opposed to Stalin’s rule and many innocent people who were forced to admit to crimes they didn’t commit.

Emblem of the USSR



The Worker and Kolkhoz Woman stamp from Nikolai’s collection



In 1937, the USSR took part in the World’s Fair in Paris and received many awards. The Soviet pavilion featured the Worker and Kolkhoz Woman sculpture by Vera Mukhina.



Lida’s Pioneer tie clip reads “Always ready!”

IT MUST BE A MISTAKE. I’VE KNOWN LEV ORLIK FOR A LONG TIME. HE’S A DECENT MAN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY DECENT MAN? ILYA STEPANOVICH, YOU ARE POLITICALLY NEARSIGHTED. DON’T YOU READ THE PAPERS? THESE DAYS, YOU HAVE TO BE VIGILANT: THERE COULD BE SPIES AND SABOTEURS ANYWHERE.

PEOPLE DON’T GET ARRESTED FOR NOTHING. IF IT’S A MISTAKE, THEY’LL FIGURE IT OUT AND LET HIM GO.

Veniamin (Nyuma) Shtein, Marusya’s husband

Nelli Muromtseva, Nikolai’s wife

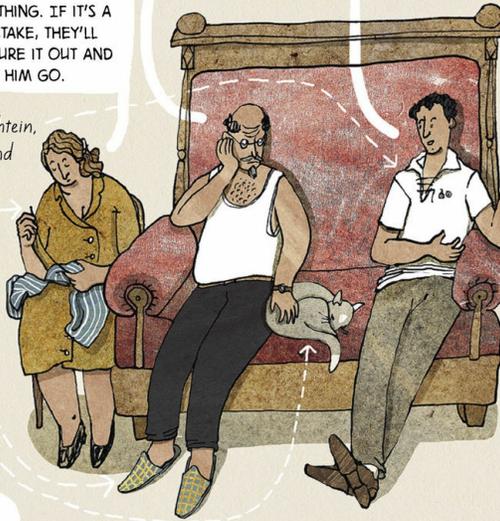
Ilya Stepanovich Muromtsev, father of Irina, Nikolai, and Marusya

Mashka

Nikolai Muromtsev, father of Toma and Lida

I’M AN ENGINEER, AND I WORK ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOSCOW METRO. I KEPT SOME TOKENS AS A SOUVENIR OF THE OPENING OF THE FIRST METRO LINE IN 1935.

22



## УНИЧТОЖИТЬ ГАДОВ!

Schoolchildren wrote letters to the newspaper expressing outrage at Leon Trotsky’s betrayal of Joseph Stalin—and call for Trotsky and his co-conspirators to be punished.

★  
Фашистские гадина покушалась на жизнь самого родного нам человека, на жизнь нашего отца, вождя и учителя — товарища Сталина.  
Враги просчитались. Их поймали с поличным.  
Фашиста Троцкого и его сообщников нужно стереть с лица земли — это единодушное мнение всех участников нашего митинга.  
Пионеры: **ВОЛОДЯ НАУМЕНКО, ВАЛЯ МОСКАЛЕНКО, ОЛЯ ГРИНЕВИЧ.**  
Киев, 80-я школа.

★  
Подлая шайка фашистских наймитов пыталась поднять свою грязную руку на вождя нашей партии и правительства, руку, которая уже обгорела кровью Сергея Мироновича Кирова. Но враги просчитались. Их во-время разоблачили наш славный Народный комиссар-риг внутренних дел.  
Мы, ученики 3-го класса «Г», все, как один, требуем расстрелять фашистских гадин. Подлым убийцам нет места на советской земле!  
СЛЕДУЕТ 32 ПОДПИСИ.  
Москва, 76-я школа.



Metro tokens

★  
Мы, комсомольцы и пионеры 8-го класса «Б» 186-й школы Москвы, возмущены омерзительными, подлейшими преступлениями троцкистских бандитов.  
Эти подлые изменники хотели продать нашу родину германскому и японскому фашизму, обречь нас, детей, на голод и холод. Нет слов, чтобы выразить негодование, которым мы охвачены!  
Мы хотим, чтобы наш пролетарский суд присудил эту омерзительную банду к высшей мере наказания — расстрелу.  
СЛЕДУЕТ 16 ПОДПИСЕЙ.

★  
Жалкие последыши Иудушки Троцкого пытались подорвать военную мощь нашей могучей родины. Они пытались отнять у нас радостное и счастливое детство, которое дала нам коммунистическая партия, любимый Сталин.  
Мы требуем расстрелять подлых наемников фашизма.  
**БОРИС ПЕСЬЮКОВ.**  
Воронеж,  
2-я полная средняя школа.

LIDA, I'VE MEMORIZED IT ALREADY!

NO, LET'S REPEAT IT ONE MORE TIME.

ONLY THOSE WHO LOVE TO WORK GET TO BE LITTLE OCTOBRISTS!



Toma Lida  
Muromtseva Muromtseva,  
Toma's sister



Joseph Stalin  
Stalin headed the Bolshevik Party after Lenin's death. The newspapers and radio kept saying: "Despite the deviousness of our enemies, the work of Lenin and Stalin will live forever, and all achievements and victories are possible thanks to our wise leader."



Toma and Lida's toys

Friedrich's bear



Iskra's toys



Lev Orlik's books

Collected works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

Collected works of Vladimir Lenin



"Two Falcons," by Mikhail Isakovsky



The Orlik's radio

AFTER LEV'S ARREST, I WENT THROUGH OUR PHOTO ALBUMS AND CUT OUT THE FACES OF OUR FRIENDS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED.

TWO WEEKS AFTER PAPA'S ARREST, MAMA WAS ALSO TAKEN AWAY. AUNT ANYA, PAPA'S SISTER, TOOK ME IN. PAPA WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS WITH NO CORRESPONDENCE—WHICH MEANT EXECUTION. MAMA RETURNED FROM THE CAMPS IN 1946, BUT SHE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO LIVE IN MOSCOW. IN 1956, MY PARENTS WERE REHABILITATED: THE COURT DECLARED THEM COMPLETELY INNOCENT.



Nyuma's badges

Prepared for Anti-Aircraft and Anti-Chemical Weapon Defense



International Organization of Aiding Revolutionaries



Society for Cooperation with Defense, Aviation, and Chemical Industry



Lyalya Orlik, Iskra's mother



Iskra Orlik



*Toma Muromtseva*

*December 31*

**1941** When I write to Papa, who is at the battlefront, I always start with good news. I don't want him to worry, and I want him to know that we're fighting, too! Our troop, named for Rosa Luxemburg, collected the most bottles. Lida is working at the factory making shells. Aunt Marusya is not just a teacher; she's the principal at a school in Ulyanovsk. Mama came back home after digging trenches around Moscow and is working in a hospital. The best, most important good news is that the fascists were chased away from Moscow! I sign the letter: "With a Pioneer salute, Toma."

Every night, after Grandmother closes the blackout shades and lights the lamp, the apartment seems particularly empty and echoey. But I don't write to Papa about that. The only residents left are Lida, Mama, Grandmother, Grandfather, and me. And the Simonovs—Praskovya and Tonya—but



they leave early and come back late, so I almost never see them. Old lady Shuiskaya used to live with us, but she died last month. She was afraid of the air raids, and Grandfather said her heart couldn't take the strain. The rest of the people who used to live here are either being evacuated or they are at the front.

So, this New Year's Eve, we are alone in the apartment. Grandmother found a big fir branch somewhere. Lida and I decorated it and put the Soviet star, with the hammer and sickle in the center, on top. We found a candle, cut it up into small pieces, and lit them. Grandfather poured each of us a drink and made a formal toast: "Well, my girls, let's drink to victory! So that in the New Year, the Red Army destroys the enemy!" Lida and I shouted "Hurrah!" and Mama burst into tears.



*Fedya Shtein*  
May 9

**1945** Victory! The war is over! Toma and Lida ran to Red Square, and I went with them. Everyone there was hugging, crying, laughing, and singing. Girls were dancing with one another to accordion music, and people were using blankets to toss soldiers up in the air! They raised an enormous portrait of Stalin on a dirigible, and in the evening, there were fireworks—world class! And we had a party in the kitchen.

We all shared two jars of potted meat, and each got a piece of buttered bread. White bread! Toma made Sergo dance with her—he's the one-legged lieutenant the government moved into our kitchen storeroom. Grandmother hugged Aunt Nelli. They really hate each other, but they stood together and wept. I kept waiting for the door to open and for Papa to come in. When I was younger, I didn't understand anything: When Mama would say, "Now, when the war is over, our papa and Nikolka will



come back, and then . . ." I would ask, "Will Grandfather come back, too?" Now I'm a big boy, and I know that Grandfather died and we will never see him again. But Papa is alive. He heals our soldiers, and he writes me letters: "Friedrich, take care of Mama. Listen to her and Grandmother. Study hard." I looked at a prewar photo with the three of us. Mama is in a white dress, holding me in her arms, and I'm a fat, bald baby. Papa is also in the photo. He's tall with curly hair, and he's wearing a striped T-shirt. I thought I would be able to recognize him when he came home because of the photo. And while everyone was celebrating the victory, clinking glasses, dancing, crying, and singing songs, I kept waiting for Papa. Finally, the doorbell rang, and I ran to answer—and there was some woman I didn't know in a uniform. Mama and Lida hugged her hard: "Sonya! Sonechka!" Mama said she was our neighbor, "before the war." I don't remember her at all. Papa didn't come home that day.

# 1941-1945

For a long time, the Soviets were a threat to many countries. But in the 1930s, a new threat appeared in Europe when the Nazis, headed by Adolf Hitler, came to power in Germany. On September 1, 1939, the German army invaded Poland, and World War II began. Germany's allies were Italy, Spain, and Japan. Britain headed the anti-Hitler coalition. Stalin made a non-aggression pact with Hitler, which meant Russia and Germany agreed not to attack each other. But there was also a secret protocol about dividing spheres of interest in Europe. This meant adding several Eastern European countries to the USSR. Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Moldova became Soviet republics in 1940.

Despite the pact, on June 22, 1941, Germany attacked the USSR. For the first months of the war, the Red Army was forced to retreat. In late 1941, the Germans were outside Moscow, and Leningrad was blockaded. Most of the country was under German occupation. The occupiers considered the vanquished people to be second-class citizens and wanted to destroy them—and many civilians were viciously killed.

From the first days of the war, even "civilian" factories started making weapons. Women and children worked at the factories and plants, and many people volunteered to fight at the front. Despite great losses, a breakthrough occurred in the war thanks to the heroism of the soldiers and the selfless work on the home front. In the winter of 1942, the Russians defeated the Germans outside Moscow, and in 1943, they prevailed at the Battle of Stalingrad. After this, the Red Army went on the attack. The United States and the USSR had once been enemies, but now, they united against a common foe: the Germans and their allies. The United States helped the USSR with technology and food supplies. In 1944, the Second Front was opened in Western Europe when the US invaded Normandy, France, which was occupied by the Germans. This meant that the German army had to fight on several major fronts at once, splitting their forces. The Red Army liberated the territory that the Germans held in the USSR and continued chasing the fascists all the way to Berlin, in eastern Germany. The Germans formally surrendered on May 9, 1945. Now the Russian people who had survived sorrow, fear, and starvation had to raise their country up from ruins.



Soviet T-34 tank



Lida Muromtseva assembling shells at a plant

ATTENTION! THIS IS MOSCOW SPEAKING! MOSCOW SPEAKING! THIS IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. CITIZENS OF THE SOVIET UNION! TODAY AT FOUR IN THE MORNING, WITHOUT A DECLARATION OF WAR, GERMAN TROOPS ATTACKED OUR COUNTRY, ATTACKED OUR BORDERS, AND BOMBED OUR CITIES—ZHYTOMYR, KIEV, SEVASTOPOL, KAUINAS, AND OTHERS. . . .



Loudspeaker

Muscovites listening to the announcement of war

Letter the Muromtsevs received from Nikolai in December 1941

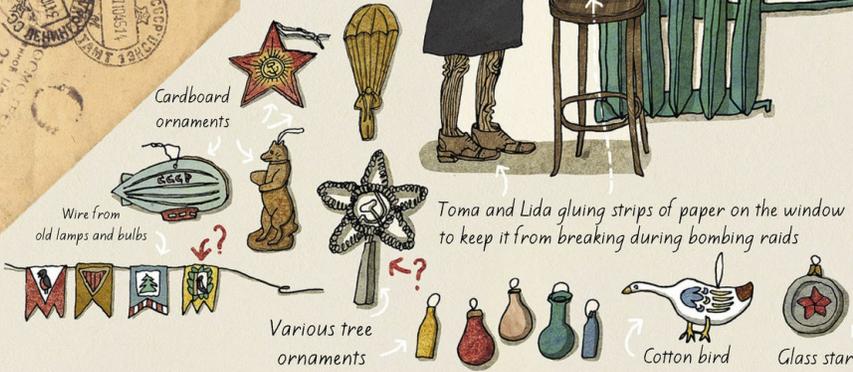


Marusya Muromtseva, Fedya's mother

LIDA, THIS WON'T LAST LONG, WILL IT?



Toma and Lida gluing strips of paper on the window to keep it from breaking during bombing raids



ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 22, 1941, I IMMEDIATELY WENT TO SIGN UP FOR THE ARMY, BUT THEY REJECTED ME. I RECEIVED A DRAFT LETTER IN AUGUST. I WAS KILLED NEAR TULA ON NOVEMBER 21, 1941.



Jodhpurs  
Footwraps

Petya Simonov,  
soldier

IN THE SPRING OF 1942, I WENT BACK TO WORK IN THE CLINIC, BECAUSE MOSCOW NEEDED DOCTORS. ON APRIL 19, 1942, I DIDN'T GET TO THE BOMB SHELTER IN TIME. I WAS KILLED BY SHRAPNEL FROM A BOMB NOT FAR FROM HOME.



Ilya Stepanovich Muromtsev,  
Nikolai's father

I WAS GIVEN "DEFERMENT" AS A SPECIALIST, BUT I VOLUNTEERED IN OCTOBER 1941. I WAS KILLED AT STALINGRAD IN DECEMBER 1942, BUT MY FAMILY WAS TOLD I WAS MISSING, AND THEY KEPT WAITING FOR ME FOR A LONG TIME.



Nikolai Muromtsev,  
father of Toma and Lida,  
militia soldier



Cookies baked  
by Grandmother  
Elena Nikolayevna

Socks and mittens knit  
by Lida

Handkerchiefs

Footwraps

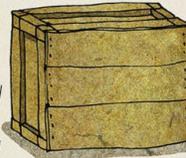
A drawstring  
bag embroidered  
by Toma

Salo

Soap

Book  
Tea

Wooden crate used  
by the family to  
ship gifts to Nikolai



WHEN THE WAR STARTED, I WAS SENT TO A TANK SCHOOL. SIX MONTHS LATER, OUR CLASS WAS SENT TO THE FRONT. I BURNED TO DEATH IN A TANK NEAR KURSK ON JULY 6, 1943.



Mikhail Kotlyar,  
fiancé of Lida Muromtseva,  
junior lieutenant

I REACHED BERLIN AND WAS BADLY WOUNDED IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE WAR. ON APRIL 28, 1945, I DIED IN THE HOSPITAL.



Stepan Simonov,  
Petya's father,  
senior sergeant

WE WERE LIVING IN MINSK WHEN THE WAR STARTED. THERE WAS NO WAY WE COULD GET OUT. ON JUNE 28, THE GERMANS WERE ALREADY IN THE CITY. ON NOVEMBER 7, 1941, WE WERE SHOT ON A GHETTO STREET DURING A RAID.



Abram Naumovich and Ester Girshevna Shtein,  
Fedy's grandparents

ATTENTION! MOSCOW SPEAKING! ON MAY 8, 1945, IN BERLIN, THE GERMANS SURRENDERED. THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR, FOUGHT BY THE SOVIET PEOPLE AGAINST THE GERMAN FASCIST INVADERS, HAS ENDED VICTORIOUSLY! GERMANY IS DEFEATED! WE WILL FOREVER REMEMBER THE HEROES WHO FELL IN COMBAT TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF OUR HOMELAND.



Loudspeaker

R?



Lena Shtein  
March 5

**1953** Stalin died today. It was announced on the radio this morning. At school, Anna Nikolayevna burst into tears in the middle of the lesson and ran out of the classroom. The rest of us sat in silence. How can it be? Stalin is our beloved leader. He is a friend to Soviet children. He lies awake at night in the Kremlin, thinking about us. How can he die? In the evening, we all gathered in the big room. Sad music played on the radio. It was quiet next door. Our neighbor Vera Apse was not clacking on the sewing machine—how could you work on a day like today?! Friedrich, my older brother, was chosen to be in the honor guard in front of the portrait of the leader at his boys' school. They chose him because he is an honor student and belongs to the Komsomol. He spent the evening at home and didn't even go over to Borya Apse's to play chess—because how can you think about chess at a time like this?

"What will happen now?" Aunt Lida kept crying and repeating, "How can we live without him?"



"If we don't have this one, there will be another," said Mama.

Aunt Lida hushed her and said, "Are you crazy?! The neighbors will hear you!"

Uncle Sergo came back from the shop and went straight to his room behind the wardrobes. He dropped something on the floor and swore. He must have met up with an old veteran of his regiment again. Aunt Toma and I made dinner and set the table. We were all waiting for Papa. He gets home late now, because he works in a hospital far out of town. Mama says it's only temporary until things clear up. What things? She set out the school workbooks to grade, but she didn't even look at them.

At last, Papa came home. He didn't just come home, he ran in! He stood still, catching his breath, and then threw the radio on the floor. "What are you all bawling about? Do you know how many people he killed?!"

1953

The war-ravaged country was being restored. Many people hoped that life would be freer, but the Cold War, an ideological and economic confrontation between Communism and capitalism, had begun in 1946. (Americans believe it began after World War II.) In the late 1940s, Stalinist repressions began again. "Antipatriotic cosmopolitans" who "bowed to the West" were persecuted. Well-known doctors who treated the Communist Party leadership were accused of being spies and terrorists. The turning point was March 5, 1953, when Joseph Stalin died. The campaign known as the "Doctors' Plot" was immediately stopped, and all those who had been arrested were fully rehabilitated—their names were cleared. Nikita Khrushchev won the power struggle that followed Stalin's death. The beginning of his administration was called the Thaw. At the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist Party (a meeting of the Communist Party leaders) in 1956, Stalin's cult of personality was condemned, and victims of the Stalinist repression were released and rehabilitated. Many issues could once again be discussed in public.

But the Cold War continued. After 1945, many of the Eastern European countries liberated by the Red Army at the end of World War II "chose" the socialist path of development, like the USSR, instead of the capitalist path of the West. Those who did not want to follow it were forced, as Hungary was in 1956.



Crowd at Stalin's funeral

Newspaper headline warning of spies who disguised themselves as doctors and professors

## ПОДЛЫЕ ШПИОНЫ И УБИЙЦЫ ПОД МАСКОЙ ПРОФЕССОРОВ-ВРАЧЕЙ

POISONERS ARE EVERYWHERE! ONE CITIZEN TOLD ME SHE BROUGHT HOME PILLS FROM THE PHARMACY. SHE BROKE ONE IN HALF, AND THERE WERE TINY WHITE WORMS INSIDE! THE PHARMACIST'S NAME IS KATZ!

HOW CAN THERE BE WORMS IN PILLS, NADIA? THAT'S NONSENSE.



32

Nadia the milk woman delivers milk to the Muromtsevs every morning.

Toma Muromtseva, Marusya's niece



Nyuma's suitcase is packed and ready in case he is arrested.



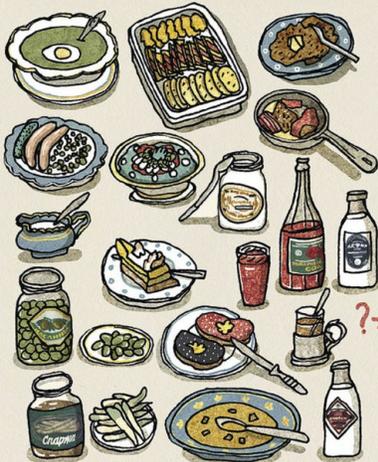
Prized doll with a porcelain head

Lena's dolls, made of plastic

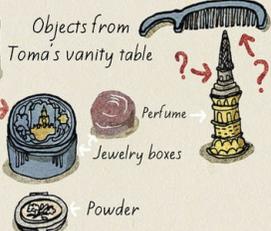
ON JANUARY 13, PRAVDA PRINTED ARTICLES ABOUT THE DOCTORS' PLOT. THE ACCUSED MEN ALL CONFESSED TO CONSPIRING TO POISON THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY, AND ALMOST ALL HAD JEWISH LAST NAMES, LIKE ME. PATIENTS REFUSED TO LET ME TREAT THEM, DEMANDING A DIFFERENT DOCTOR, AND THE EXPOSÉS CONTINUED. AT THE HOSPITAL, PEOPLE SAID VIGILANCE HAD TO BE HEIGHTENED AND THAT ALL THE KILLER DOCTORS SHOULD BE HANGED IN RED SQUARE. I HAD TO LEAVE MY POSITION AT THE HOSPITAL, AND IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO FIND ANOTHER JOB. I KEPT WAITING TO BE ARRESTED—MY BAG WAS PACKED JUST IN CASE. THERE WERE CRAZY RUMORS EVERYWHERE. . . . THEN SUDDENLY, ON APRIL 4, PRAVDA REPORTED THAT THE DOCTORS WERE INNOCENT!

Nyuma Shtein, father of Lena and Fedya





Toma Muromtseva was given *The Book of Tasty and Healthy Food*. It has recipes for meals for the sick and for children as well as instructions for how to make cream soup or eggplant caviar. It also has information about delicacies that she'd never seen before, such as capers and asparagus.



Objects from Toma's vanity table

Perfume  
Jewelry boxes  
Powder

BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS WEAR STOCKINGS, WHICH ARE ATTACHED WITH GARTERS TO UNDERSHIRTS CALLED LIFTERS. THE BOYS' STOCKINGS OFTEN COME UNDONE AND GATHER IN FOLDS AT THEIR ANKLES.



In 1953, a telephone was installed in the hallway for all the residents to use.

Telephone

FRIEDRICH, WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? WHY DID YOU GO THERE? THE NEIGHBOR SAID THAT IT WAS SO CROWDED THAT PEOPLE WERE TRAMPLED TO DEATH.

IT WAS THE LEADER'S FUNERAL! OUR WHOLE CLASS WENT! WHEN PAVEL AND I SAW THE CROWD ON SAMOTECHNAYA STREET, WE TOOK THE ALLEYWAYS BACK. IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL!



Marusya Muromtseva, mother of Fedya and Lena Friedrich (Fedya) Shtein

Report detailing the beginning of the revolution in Petrograd, led by Lenin and Stalin



Lena Shtein

Zheka Petrov, Lena's friend

Slingshot  
Ice skates



Lifter

Garters

Stockings

Pantaloons

Underpants

Page from Lena's notebook

Доклад.  
 Девочки! 35 лет тому назад,  
 25 октября (Ноября) 1917 года в  
 Петрограде, нынешнем Ленинграде,  
 произошла революция. Во  
 главе её стоял тов. Ленин.  
 24 октября 1917 года началось  
 восстание, военной частью которого  
 руководил тов. Сталин, а 25 (9/11)  
 уже почти весь город был в



## Genka Muromtsev

April 14

### 1961

The first man in space is a Soviet! Yuri Gagarin flew in a rocket ship around Earth and came back! Uncle Friedrich got a call from work and was told that the whole department would go to greet the first cosmonaut. Papa drew a big poster: "Moscow—Cosmos! Gagarin—Hurrah!" So, Friday morning, Friedrich and I took the train to the university. Everyone was lined up by department and led to Leninsky Avenue. Springtime, sunshine! Everyone so happy! I had never seen so many people in my life. There were even more than last year, when Mama took me to the May Day demonstration in Red Square.

"We will surpass America. We already have!" someone in the crowd shouted.

"He's coming! He's coming!" someone else yelled.

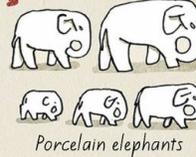
We weren't in the first row, but Friedrich put me on his shoulders, and I saw everything: Yuri



Gagarin was standing up in a convertible, smiling and waving! Everyone shouted and clapped, but I was the loudest! At the train station, we met Borya Apse, who was also there to greet Gagarin. Friedrich bought me ice cream. Borya and Friedrich wanted a beer, but there was only one kiosk, and the line was long, so we didn't try. That evening, we all gathered in front of the TV to watch the news. They showed Gagarin getting out of a plane and walking down the red carpet to a podium to report on his flight—and his shoelace was untied! Everyone froze. What if he tripped and fell? But he didn't notice. I used to want to be a geologist like Borya: go on expeditions, cook around a campfire, go white-water rafting, look for oil or diamonds or rare metals. But now, I know for sure: When I grow up, I'm going to be a cosmonaut.

1961

The Thaw went on. After criticism of past mistakes by the Communist Party and Stalin himself, the USSR continued along the path to its projected radiant socialist future. The Communist Party was still in charge. Nikita Khrushchev announced: "This generation of Soviet people will live under Communism!" After Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space, it seemed to the people of the USSR that their country was the best in the world and that the era of universal happiness and prosperity was just around the corner. The lives of the Soviet people improved. Many were moved from communal flats and barracks into individual apartments in new buildings. The stores had more food, clothing, and amazing new technology—televisions, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners. Many of these things were affordable for ordinary people. In the meantime, the Cold War reached its peak. The Caribbean Crisis (also known as the Cuban Missile Crisis)—the conflict between the United States and the USSR over Soviet missiles in Cuba—practically led to nuclear war.



Porcelain elephants

"Fierce and Stubborn," by Bulat Okudzhava

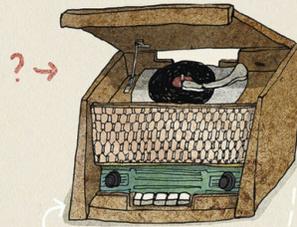
Кустов и упрям,  
Тори, оном, тори.  
На смену декабрии  
Приходит январь.

Нам всё дано страна—  
И радости, и слез,  
одна на всех муна,  
всё на всех.

Третье лето б дотца,  
а там пухай ведут  
за все твои дела  
на самой страшной суд.

Пусть оправданья нет,  
и даже век спустя  
сам бед—одни ответ,  
одни ответ—пусты.

Кустов и упрям,  
тори, оном, тори,  
На смену декабрии  
приходит январь.



The Apses' record player  
Perpetual calendar



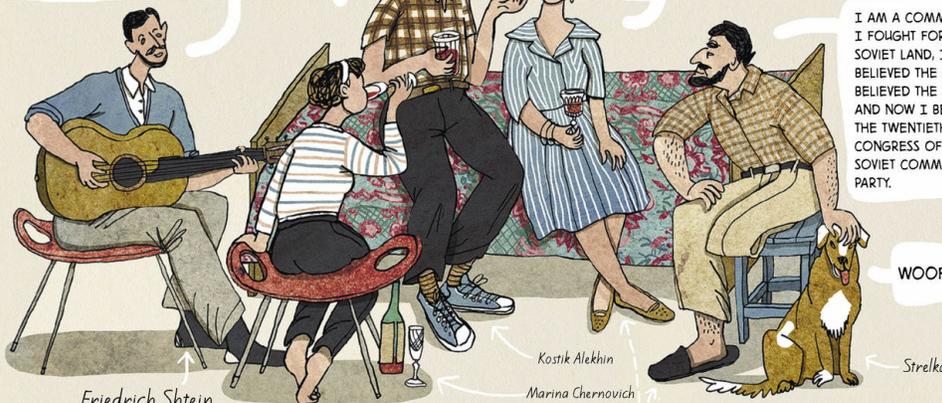
HOW COULD YOU BE SILENT WHEN YOUR TEACHERS WERE BEING ATTACKED FOR ELITISM? YOU FOUGHT IN THE WAR! WERE YOU AFRAID?

THE REVOLUTION IS DEAD, AND THE CORPSE STINKS!

NO, THE REVOLUTION IS SICK, AND WE HAVE TO HELP IT. WE HAVE TO RETURN TO LENIN'S PRECEPTS!

I AM A COMMUNIST, I FOUGHT FOR THE SOVIET LAND, I BELIEVED THE PARTY, I BELIEVED THE LEADER. AND NOW I BELIEVE THE TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY.

WOOF!



Friedrich Shtein

Friedrich's classmates

Kostik Alekhin

Marina Chernovich

Valya Vorontsova

Sergo Ninoshvili, Genka's father

Strelka





David Ninoshvili

August 26

1973

*"Gorko! Gorko! It's bitter. Sweeten it with a kiss! Gorko!"*

Phooey, how much can two people kiss! In front of everyone! That Genka! We've never had a wedding like that in our apartment. Not that it's ever boring: Genka's pals come over. They dance or just listen to loud music until the neighbors start banging on the pipes. He hung a sign on the door to his room that reads: "The best gift is a bottle." Mama was so mad! "Genka, why did you bother with college? To be a hippie? Why don't you just apply for a janitorial job right away?" she asked. But she's wrong: Genka is a good student, even if he doesn't have a Lenin scholarship. And Tanya, his bride, excels in everything. And she's a great skater and skier—they've taken me to the rink with them lots of times.

Half the students from their year at school came, and all of Tanya's family came from the village



of Bezbozhnik. The table was set up across two rooms, and we brought the kitchen stools and borrowed chairs and plates from the neighbors. At one end of the table, someone played the accordion, and on the other, they played Elvis "on bones"—records made out of old X-rays! Uncle Friedrich went off to smoke on the landing with his friends. I snuck behind them, because they chase me away if they notice. "Not for your ears," they always say. Friedrich is living with us for now, because he wants to leave. Forever. Abroad. And the government isn't letting him out. But we're not allowed to talk about that. Or that he types with carbon paper to make copies. I looked at one of the pages, and it said: "Arrests. Illegal political persecution. News in samizdat." I didn't understand a thing. On the stairs, they were whispering about someone named Galich. I'll have to ask Genka. Maybe he'll explain it to me.

# 1973

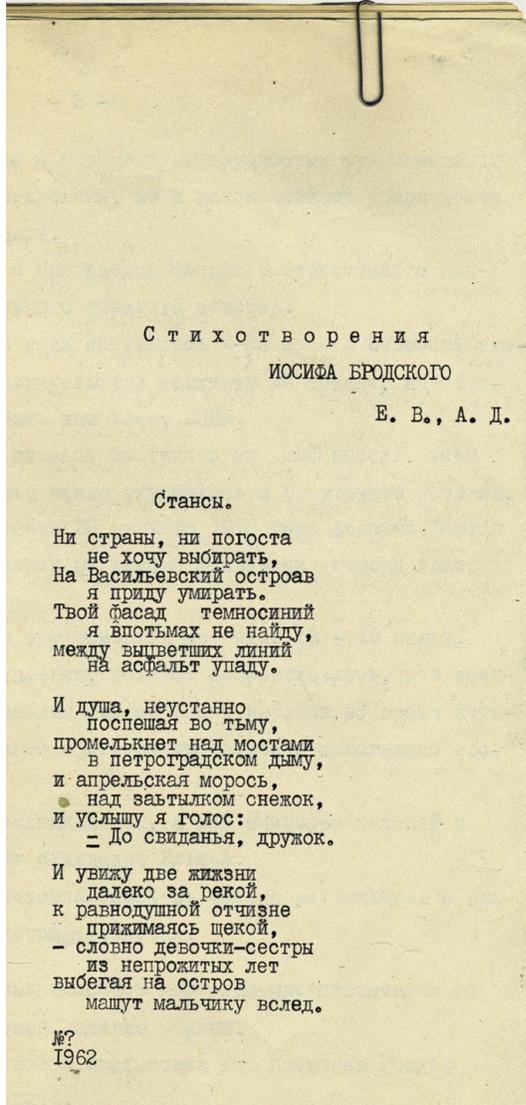
The brief Thaw period came to an end. In 1964, Nikita Khrushchev was ousted from power, but the tightening of the screws had already begun. The era of Leonid Brezhnev, who replaced Khrushchev, was known as the Era of Stagnation. But the new generation of Soviet people felt freer. There were those who were prepared to stand up for their beliefs even when they contradicted state policy. In 1968, eight brave men and women came to Red Square to protest the entrance of Soviet troops into Czechoslovakia. Political arguments left the newspapers and entered kitchens. At home, people retyped works that were officially banned and passed them around. They tried to listen to "hostile voices"—Western radio broadcasts—secretly. The USSR seemed completely separated from the rest of the world. This separation became known as the Iron Curtain.

Then suddenly, a loophole appeared for people who wanted to leave the country: You could get permission to reunite with relatives abroad. Sometimes, people had to wait years to get permission. Once they did, they had to say farewell to their homeland and their families.



"Khrushchevka buildings" were constructed to deal with the housing crisis. Marusya and Nijima, David's great-aunt and -uncle, got an apartment in one of these buildings.

"Stanzas," by Joseph Brodsky



AND HE SAYS, "YOU'RE AN ENGINEER, YOU COULD GIVE OUR MILITARY SECRETS TO THE WEST." BUT I DON'T KNOW ANY SECRETS! IT'S A GOOD THING I FOUND A JOB AS A NIGHT WATCHMAN. OTHERWISE, THEY COULD ARREST ME FOR PARASITISM.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT? BOGOMOLNY HAS BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE SINCE 1966. IF YOU WERE A STORE MANAGER INSTEAD OF AN ENGINEER, THEY WOULD HAVE LET YOU OUT LONG AGO.

WHAT KIND OF STORE MANAGER WOULD I BE?

WHO'S GALICH?



Friedrich Shtein

Sasha, his friend

David Ninoshvili, Genka's brother



Erika typewriter



Carbon paper



VEF 12 radio

The most accessible way to distribute banned texts was by using a typewriter. You could type several copies at once, using carbon paper between the pages. This was called "typing carbon copies." If you hit the keys hard, you could get several clear copies.

Wedding presents for Genka and Tanya:



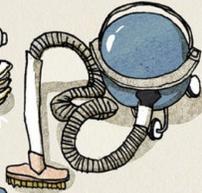
Reel-to-reel tape recorder from Genka's parents



"Madonna" dishes from Tanya's parents



Wine glasses from Genka's grandmother



Saturn vacuum cleaner from Tanya's relatives



Embossed metal wall art from Genka's aunt

Food at the wedding:



Salads



Fruit



Sausages



Pickles



Plov (a rice and meat dish)



Sausage



Lemon slices

THIS FLAT IS COOL! SO ARE THE 'RENTS —NOT LIKE MINE!

YES, THE WEDDING IS GROOVY!

Headband, called hair-arnik (from the English word hair)

Bags for documents, called ksuivnik (from slang ksuiva, for document)

Bell-bottoms

Oleg and Masha, hippies, classmates of Genka and Tanya



... Бродят между разими Добрынями тунейдцы Несторы и Пимены. Их имён с эстрад не рассиролили, В супер их не тискают облаточный: Эрика берет четыре копии, Вот и всё!

... А этого достаточно.

Пусть пока всего четыре копии — этого достаточно.

"We're No Worse than Horace," by Aleksandr Galich

Tickets to the Taganka Theatre from Genka and Tanya's classmates

During the Thaw, new theaters with young actors and a new generation of directors who were not afraid of experimentation appeared in Moscow. Every production at the Sovremennik Theatre or the Taganka Theatre was an event, and getting tickets was almost impossible.

Rock 'n' roll "on bones" Popular Western music that couldn't be bought in the USSR was recorded on old X-rays in underground studios. This was called music "on bones."



TWIST AND SHOUT!

STIERLITZ, PLEASE STAY HERE.

In August 1973, the popular television series *Seventeen Moments of Spring* premiered.



Friedrich Shtein



TANYA, LOOK WHAT THE GANG GOT US! TICKETS FOR THE GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN!

GENKA, WE'LL SEE VYSOTSKY!

Kombucha (mushroom tea)



Genka Muromtsev and his wife, Tanya

AFTER 1972, I SPENT FOUR YEARS LIVING "IN REFUSAL"—I HAD AN INVITATION FROM RELATIVES IN ISRAEL, BUT I COULD NOT GET PERMISSION TO LEAVE. I WAS FIRED FROM THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, OF COURSE. I LIVED WITH RELATIVES, DID ODD JOBS, AND STUDIED ENGLISH. SUDDENLY, IN 1976, I WAS ALLOWED TO LEAVE. I FLEW FROM RUSSIA TO VIENNA AND FROM VIENNA TO AMERICA.



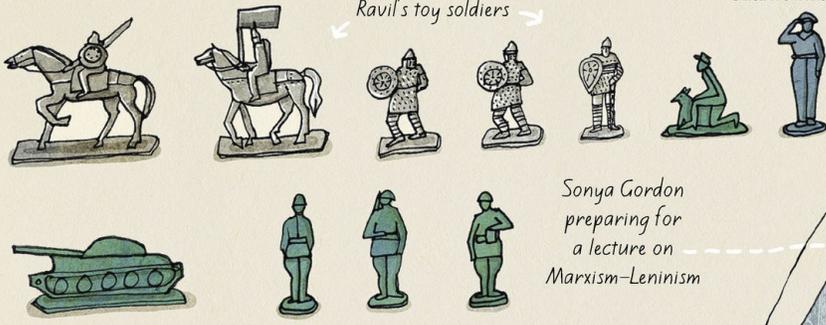
August 31  
1973



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn  
Writer, dissident, Nobel Prize laureate (1970). Author of *The Gulag Archipelago*, a book about repressions in the USSR. In 1974, he was charged with treason and expelled from the country.



Andrei Sakharov  
Academic, physicist, one of the creators of the Soviet hydrogen bomb. He worked extensively for human rights in the Soviet Union as an activist and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975. Because of his acts of dissidence, he was stripped of all his academic awards and prizes in 1980 and was exiled from Moscow.

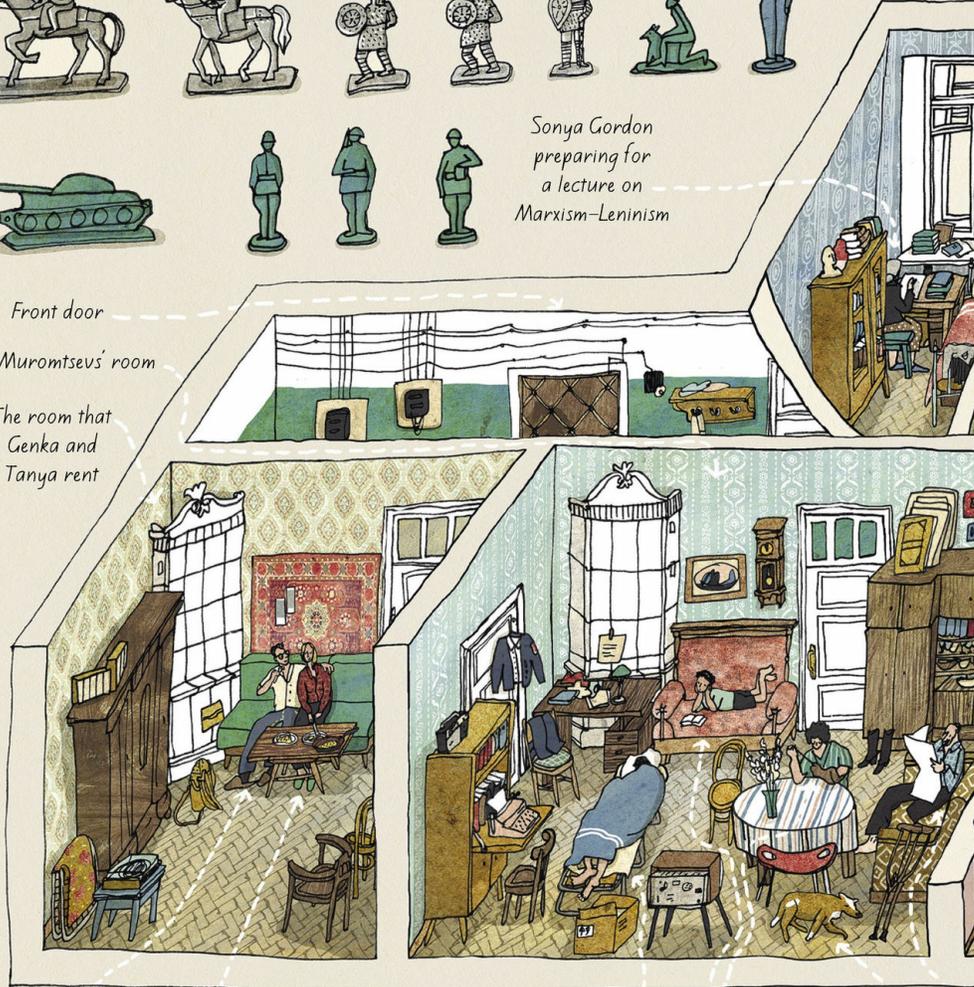


Ravil's toy soldiers

Sonya Gordon preparing for a lecture on Marxism-Leninism

Front door  
The Muromtsev's room

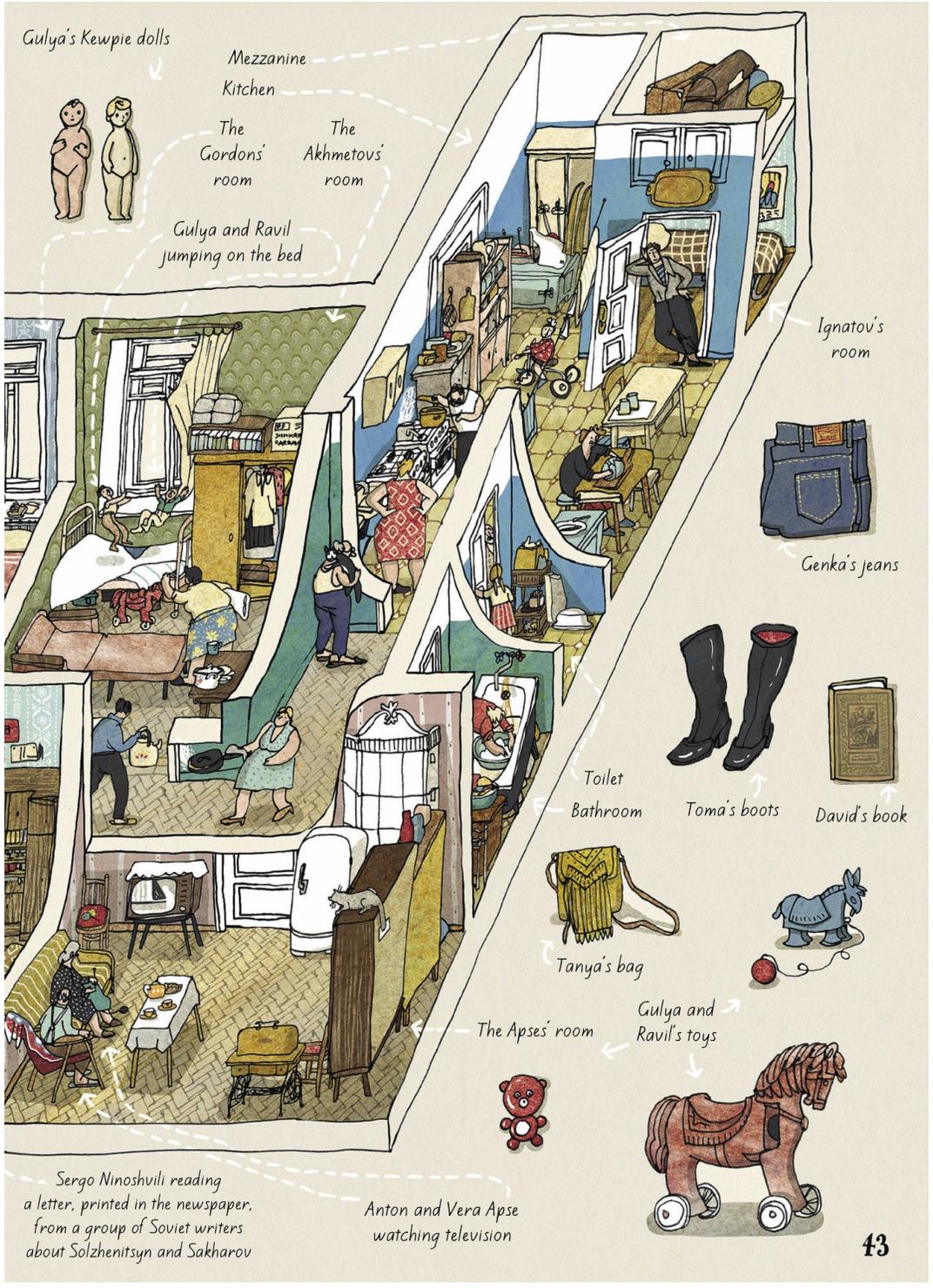
The room that Genka and Tanya rent



Genka and Tanya Muromtsev eating dinner after returning from their honeymoon in Jürmala

Friedrich Shtein sleeping after his night shift  
David Ninoshvili reading *The Three Musketeers*

Toma Muromtseva darning Sergo's socks  
Strelka sleeping



Gulya's Kewpie dolls



Mezzanine  
Kitchen

The  
Gordons'  
room

The  
Akhmetovs'  
room

Gulya and Ravil  
jumping on the bed

Ignatov's  
room



Genka's jeans



Toma's boots



David's book

Toilet  
Bathroom

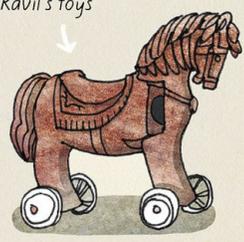


Tanya's bag



Gulya and  
Ravil's toys

The Apses' room



Sergo Ninoshvili reading  
a letter, printed in the newspaper,  
from a group of Soviet writers  
about Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov

Anton and Vera Apse  
watching television



## Sasha Muromtseva

October 29

**1987** Great-grandaunt Irina is visiting us—a real Frenchwoman from Paris! I mean, she's actually Russian and speaks Russian, but after her husband—a White Army officer—died in the Russian Civil War, she ended up in Paris and married a Frenchman.

Monsieur Dupuy has died. He was a real hero, like Grandfather Sergo. He also fought against the Germans, but in the French Resistance. My great-grandaunt is very old—she must be a hundred, at least—but she's very sprightly and modern—her hairdo is perfect, and she wears high heels. You would never say she was a little old lady. Papa and Mama didn't even know that they had relatives abroad, except for our granduncle Friedrich, who moved to America. But a letter came six months ago. Our parents did not tell us who sent it at first. They whispered with Grandmother and Grandfather, called our grandaunt Lena to come over, and sent Mitka and me out for a walk. Then they announced that our great-grandaunt would be visiting from France and that we could not brag to anyone about it and, in fact, had to keep it quiet. Mama did a major housecleaning



and kept planning what to cook so we wouldn't embarrass ourselves in front of our guest. And so, she came, and everyone gathered here because Great-grandaunt Irina lived in our apartment when she was a girl. She and her sister, Marusya, spent a long time hugging and crying and asking each other: "Do you remember this? Do you?" And then Uncle David pulled out an old suitcase filled with photographs from the kitchen attic. They were prerevolutionary—big, brown, and on cardboard, with the engraved names and addresses of the photo studios: Moscow, Simbirsk, Vilna, Tiflis. And then smaller blurry ones, always with something written on the back: "To Veniamin from Galya as a memory of our friendship!" Some were tiny, like for an ID, and some had lacy edges. Mama got a pencil to write everyone's names. But then Great-grandaunt opened a big bag and handed out presents. Mitka got a T-shirt with the Eiffel Tower on it and some gum, and I got a doll. All her clothes and shoes come off, and her arms bend at the elbows! I'll show all the girls at school tomorrow!

**1987** As relations between the USSR and the rest of the world deteriorated, the greatest tension was during the Soviet-Afghan War. From 1979 to 1989, the Soviet Union carried out military operations in Afghanistan, during which tens of thousands of Soviet soldiers and officers were killed or wounded carrying out their "international duty." The country also spent huge amounts of money in an arms race with the West, trying to build the largest military arsenal, and its planned economic growth was stagnant. The leadership of the USSR, headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, decided to start reforms: perestroika, a restructuring of the economy and an acceleration of its development; glasnost, transparency in the press; and détente, a reduction of international tensions. The greatest symbol of this new era was the destruction of the Berlin Wall in 1989. It had been the border between the hostile East and West. (After World War II, Germany was split into two countries, West Germany and East Germany, with West Germany being in the Western orbit and East Germany being in the Soviet orbit. The German city of Berlin was divided between these two countries, and East Berlin and West Berlin were separated by a barrier called the Berlin Wall.) Now reforms were openly discussed on television and in the papers, and real, instead of "official," history was reopened. Books by previously banned authors were published. But the Communist Party was still the only power, and the reforms were controlled from above, because the leaders were afraid things would go too far.



Mikhail Gorbachev

# УЧИТЬСЯ ДЕМОКРАТИИ

Партийные комитеты в условиях гласности

хронике наших дней все чаще всеобщения такого рода. На египетском заводе «РАФ» после конкурса из числа победителей голосованием избран новый

Две кандидатуры были выдвинуты на секретаря райкома партии в районе Кемеровской области. Колея сделал свой выбор путем тайного голосования.

В практику телевидения Грузии вступают так называемые «телескопы» тысячи людей. Они приобретают эфирное время по наиболее популярным, волнующим население программам. При этом предложения, замечания, рекомендации становятся для принятия важных решений на высшем уровне.

Встречи на земле Латвии.

Телефото спец. корр. «Правды» А. Назаренко.



# Развивать, двигать перестройку

Пребывание М. С. Горбачева в Латвии

Presents that Irina brought from Paris:



T-shirt for Mitya

Tie for Genka (Sasha's father)



Earrings and partyhose for Tanya (Sasha's mother)



46

Doll for Sasha



Waterproof diapers for Anya



Records for David



Perfume for Marusya (Sasha's great-aunt)



Cheese Art book for Sergo



Mitya Muromtsev



Corn Flakes



Chewing gum

MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER WAS A WHITE ARMY OFFICER! JUST LIKE IN THE MOVIES! AND HIS FAMILY LIVED IN LUXURY— WITH A COOK AND A MAID! BUT GRANDMOTHER RAISA'S MOTHER, WHO LIVED IN THE VILLAGE, COULDN'T EVEN GO TO SCHOOL DURING WINTER BEFORE THE REVOLUTION, BECAUSE THEY HAD ONLY THREE PAIRS OF FELT BOOTS FOR TEN CHILDREN.

Newspaper clippings about government reforms



Novy Mir magazine

The Muromtsevs' bookshelves hold complete editions of the "fat journals" *Novy Mir* and *Inostrannaya Literatura*. *Novy Mir* published Boris Pasternak's novel *Doctor Zhivago* in 1988 for the first time in the USSR, as well as Solzhenitsyn's *The Gulag Archipelago*. But until just recently, you could be arrested for distributing these books!



Mitya and Sasha saved the wrappers from the gum Great-grandaunt Irina brought. Everyone at school was jealous!

MAMA, I'VE BEEN CHRISTENED!

WHAT'S THIS NEW FASHION? WHAT WILL YOUR FATHER SAY?

PAPA'S GRANDFATHER DAVID WAS A PRIEST, YOU KNOW.



Toma Muromtseva, David's mother

David's things:

Bible typed on a typewriter Small cross

It was widely believed that all citizens of the USSR were atheists. It became evident that this was not true when people were once again free to talk about their religious convictions.

Хил был художник один Домик имел и холсты, Но он актрису любил, Ту, что любила цветы. Он тогда продал свой дом, Продав картины и ковры И на все деньги купил Целое море цветов.



"A Million Red Roses," by Andrei Voznesensky

Ох, если бы я умерла. Когда я маленькой была. Тогда б родители мои Давно имели жигули!

"Oh", by Natasha Borzhomova



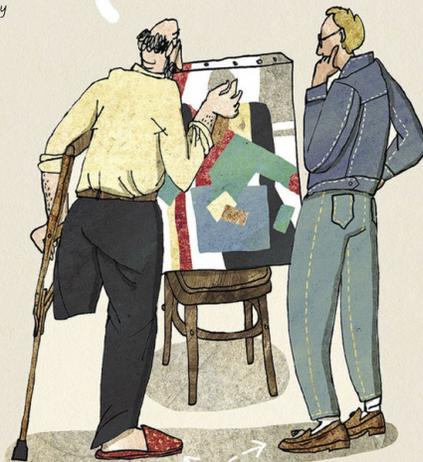
Lyonya and Nikita, David's friends, punks

YOU'RE DRESSED LIKE SCARECROWS, SITTING AND LOITERING! WHO'S GOING TO DO ANY WORK?



THIS IS AN OLD PAINTING, A SELF-PORTRAIT. I CALLED IT "JOB."

OH, I LIKE IT! HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?



Sergo Ninoshvili, grandfather of Sasha, Mitya, and Anya

Mr. Smith, an art collector from New York

Anya's toys

Sasha's toys



Mitya's toys



Steerable car game



Electronic game ("Just You Wait!")



Efrosinia Nikiforovna, nanny

Elena Nikolayevna, mother

Ilya Stepanovich, father



Photograph of the Muromtsev family, taken in 1912, which was found in the mezzanine in 1987

Marusya

Irina

Nikolenka

Friedrich Shtein

Katya, his wife



Photo sent by Friedrich from America

Sasha Muromtseva

THAT WINTER SOMEONE BROUGHT US A LETTER FROM FRIEDRICH, A DISTANT RELATIVE WHO LIVES IN AMERICA. HE'S WORKING AS A PROGRAMMER FOR A COMPANY WITH A FUNNY NAME: APPLE! HE ALSO SENT THIS PHOTOGRAPH.





*Anya Muromtseva*

*August 19*

**1991** Today is Monday. Mitka, Sasha, and I stayed at the dacha, our country house, while our parents went to Moscow last night. Papa had to be at work in the morning, and Mama had something to do in the city, but she planned to return this evening. She told Mitka to keep an eye on the younger ones (that's us, as if we were babies!). Early in the morning, we heard a roaring rumble, so we ran to the road—and there was a column of tanks. The noise, the dust! Mitka said it was an exercise. We went home, had breakfast, and turned on the radio—and the news announced that a state of emergency had been declared. After the news, they played sad music.

"So, that's the end of perestroika. Pack up, hurry, they may close down the roads, we have to get to Moscow, to our parents," Mitka said.

"Do you think they'll ban the Beatles now?" Sasha asked.

"Anything can happen. Hurry up."



We couldn't call home from the dacha, because we didn't have a phone.

I took my album and pencils and a doll, Sasha stuck her tape player and cassettes in her bag, and we left the dishes unwashed—no time for that. We took the train to Moscow and met Mother on the doorstep—she was planning to come to us. "My smarties," she said. (She didn't know about the dishes or that Mitka had forgotten to lock up the house.)

Grandfather said that the tanks we had seen at the dacha were already in Moscow, and he and Mitka had to go to City Hall. They left. Papa came home from work in the evening, and they were still gone, and there were no calls. What, they couldn't borrow a two-kopek coin from anyone to call us? At last, the phone rang, but it wasn't Mitka with Grandfather, but Grandmother Raisa calling from the train station—she had come from Bezbozhnik with treats for us. She asked Papa to meet her and help her carry the heavy bags. Mama clutched her head, but Grandmother Toma comforted her: "Don't worry, Tanya, whatever happens, pickled tomatoes will be good to have."

**1991** Of all the reforms that began in the USSR, glasnost and détente worked the best. Perestroika and the acceleration of the planned economy could not handle the rising prices and the deficits in goods and food. The countries of Eastern Europe and many republics of the USSR sensed the weakening center and decided to break off. The Union republics started declaring their independence, which threatened the territorial unity of the USSR. It felt as if the Cold War was lost and catastrophe loomed in the future. There were men in the Communist Party who wanted to stop the process of collapse and turn back time. On August 19, 1991, they detained Mikhail Gorbachev and declared a state of emergency in the country. Tank troops were brought into Moscow to quell protests. But tens of thousands of Muscovites flooded the streets to defend their freedom, which was symbolized by the White House—the parliament building of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR) government. They were led by Boris Yeltsin, president of the RSFSR. The attempted coup failed. In December 1991, the Belovezha Accords were signed—the Soviet Union no longer existed, and Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia formed the Commonwealth of Independent States.



Sergo Ninoshvili, Anya's grandfather, among the protesters at the White House

Newspaper clippings detailing the new Soviet leadership

# ЗАЯВЛЕНИЕ СОВЕТСКОГО РУКОВОДСТВА

В связи с невозможностью по состоянию здоровья исполнения Горбачевым Михаилом обязанностей Президента СССР переходом в соответствии со статьей 127 Конституции СССР полномочий Президента СССР к вице-президенту СССР Янаеву Геннадью Ивановичу;

решением о сохранении Союза Советских Социалистических Республик; руководствуясь жизненно важными интересами народов нашей Родины, всех советских людей,

**ЗАЯВЛЯЕМ:**

1. В соответствии со статьей 127 Конституции СССР и статьей 2 Закона СССР «О правовом режиме чрезвычайного положения» и/или ввиду необходимости принятия самых решительных мер по предотвращению сползания общества к общенациональной катастрофе, обеспечения законности и порядка, ввести чрезвычайное положение в отдельных

местностях СССР на срок 6 месяцев с 4 часов по московскому времени 19 августа 1991 года.

2. Установить, что на всей территории СССР безусловное верховенство имеют Конституция СССР и законы Союза ССР.

3. Для управления страной и эффективного осуществления режима чрезвычайного положения образовать Государственный комитет по чрезвычайному положению в СССР (ГКЧП СССР) в следующем составе: Бакалов О. Д.—первый заместитель председателя Совета Обороны СССР, Крючков В. А.—председатель КГБ СССР, Павлов В. С.—премьер-министр СССР, Пуго В. К.—министр внутренних дел СССР, Стародубцев В. А.—пре-

седатель Крестьянского кооператива А. И.—президент государственных предприятий и предприятий легкой, строительной промышленности, Язов Д. Т.—министр Янаев Г. И.—чл. Президиума СССР.

4. Установить, что решения ГКЧП СССР обязательны для неукоснительного исполнения всеми органами власти и управления, должностными лицами и гражданами на всей территории Союза ССР.

**Г. ЯНАЕВ,  
В. ПАВЛОВ,  
О. БАКАЛОВ.**

18 августа 1991 года.

YOUNG MAN, HOW LONG WILL YOU BE?

Some things could be purchased only with ration cards (right)—sugar, for example. Even Genka's new suit required an invitation to buy it in a store—which he got at his job at the research institute—since clothes were also rationed and couldn't be purchased freely.



PAPA, I WON'T BE HOME TONIGHT! DON'T WORRY, GRANDPA AND I ARE FINE! WE'RE AT THE WHITE HOUSE. YES, THE TANKS ARE HERE. GRANDPA WENT TO TALK WITH THEIR COMMANDER. SORRY, THERE'S A LINE AT THE PHONE, I HAVE TO RUN. TELL MAMA NOT TO WORRY, OK?

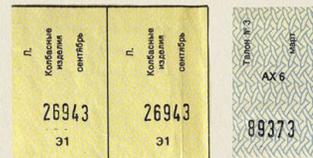


"I Want Change," by Victor Tsou

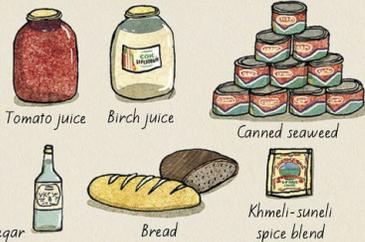
Перемен! — требуют наши сердца.  
Перемен! — требуют наши глаза.  
В нашем смехе и в наших слезах,  
И в пульсации вен:  
«Перемен!»  
Мы ждём перемен!»

Mitya Muromtsev, Anya's brother

Sonya Krasnova, a student



Now there are shortages of almost all foods! You can easily buy bread or a can of seaweed, but you have to stock up on pasta and grains when they appear in the stores. You have to stand in line for hours, and it's better to go in a group, because they won't give much to one person.



Humanitarian aid from the United States that Anya's mother was given at work

It is not easy to get cheese, so Grandmother Toma makes it herself. Here is her recipe:

Homemade cheese

Mix 13.5 tbsp (200 ml) of milk and 3.5 tsp (17.8 ml) of wine vinegar. Stir in 0.03 oz (1 g) of pepsin (you can buy it in a pharmacy). Strain 10.5 qt (10 L) of milk. Heat to 86°F (30°C). Add the milk and vinegar mixture, and put in a warm place for 30 minutes. Put the pot with milk over a low flame. Push the curds toward the walls of the pot.

Newspaper clippings about US President Bush and USSR President Gorbachev

# Вращение Президента СССР

## В чем смысл ввода военных

### Танки в городе.

TANYA, HAVE YOU HEARD THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY WILL BE BANNED? PRAVDA HASN'T BEEN PUBLISHED FOR A WEEK!

SASHA, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?! SERGO IS A COMMUNIST, AND HE'LL NEVER GIVE UP HIS CARD.

I HOPE THEY GET RID OF THEM ALL SOON!

THAT'S TRUE, YOU'LL NEVER CONVINCE GRANDFATHER TO CHANGE!

MAMA, ARE YOU DONE YET?



Sasha, Anya's sister

Murych (the cat)

Toma, Anya's grandmother

Anya Muromtseva

**КЕНЕБАНКПОРТ (штат Мэн).** Ситуация в Советском Союзе «находится под контролем». Об этом, по словам президента США Дж. Буша, ему сообщили в телефонном разговоре Президент СССР М. С. Горбачев.



For the start of school on September 1, the family bought Anya a uniform and book bag. But Mama said the uniform was no longer mandatory.



Mitya's badge



Genka carries goods in bags like this one

Tanya, Anya's mother

Genka Muromtsev, Anya's father

In early 1991, 100 rubles was half of Genka's annual salary at the research institute. Fashionable Finnish boots cost 120. A year later, money had been devalued so much that all you could buy with 100 rubles was two loaves of bread.



IN LATE 1991, THEY STOPPED PAYING OUR SALARIES AT THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE WHERE I WORKED. I HAD TO FEED THE FAMILY, SO I BECAME A "SHUTTLE TRADER"—I TRAVELED TO POLAND, BOUGHT CLOTHING THERE, AND SOLD IT AT THE CHERKIZOV MARKET. AT FIRST, I WAS ASHAMED AND EMBARRASSED—I'M AN ENGINEER; I HAVE A DIPLOMA! BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO MAKE MONEY.



# Ilyusha Muromtsev

June 9

## 2002

Our grandmother is ninety-two years old today! Well, she's technically my great-great-grandma Babmusya. We call her that because I couldn't pronounce "Babushka Marusya" when I was little and said "Babmusya." We spent a whole year preparing for this. Mama took Babmusya's address book and called and sent emails to everyone—in France and America, Georgia and Belorussia, Bezbozhnik and Ulyanovsk. So many Muromtsevs everywhere! Mama wanted to invite all of Babmusya's relatives and friends to Moscow. It didn't work well with the friends—some had died and the ones who are still alive are very old and can't travel. But there are lots of relatives—more than we could fit in our one-room apartment. So, Mama decided that we would celebrate in a café, and not just any café, but the one in the apartment where they used to live. They lived in the center of town in a big communal apartment, where they had two rooms. With Grandmother, Grandfather, Great-grandmother, Great-grandfather, and Grandfather's brother, David, and Father's sisters. Then people were moved out of the communal apartment, and it was turned into a café. That's what it's called: "The Old Apartment." Babmusya said it was unrecognizable—they took down the partitions and painted the walls. Only the couch was just like the one they had had. Everyone remembered the apartment except for me and Olya Ninoshvili! Jean-Paul had visited and slept on a cot, and even Aunt Zhenya from America had visited! I felt left out. But they brought out the cake with candles and we all sang: "Happy birthday, Marusya, happy birthday to you!"



Cake with ninety-two candles for Marusya

Zhenya Shtein

Friedrich Shtein

Marusya Muromtseva

Lena Shtein



Ilyusha Muromtsev

Olya Ninoshvili

David Ninoshvili

Jean-Paul Dupuy

Toma

Sergo Ninoshvili

Tanya

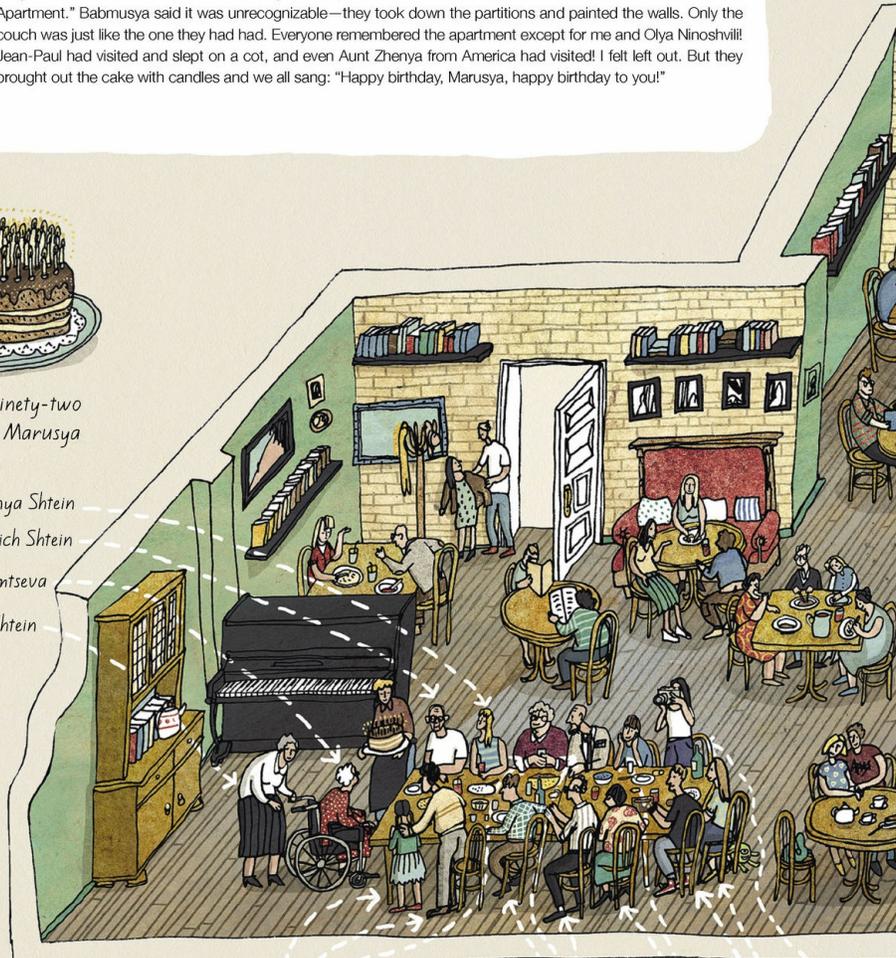
Anya

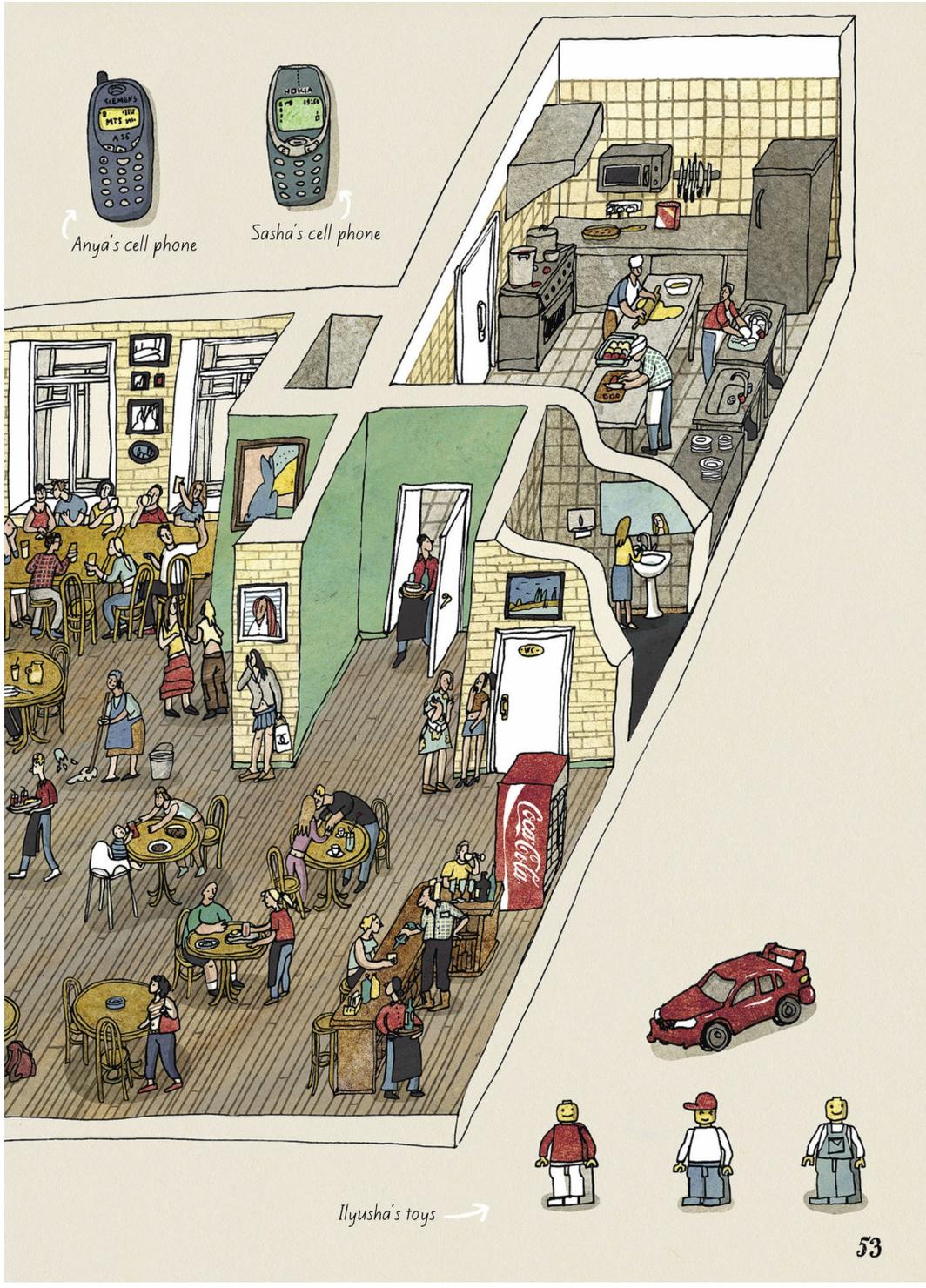
Sonya

Genka

Mitya

Sasha





Anya's cell phone

Sasha's cell phone

Ilyusha's toys

WE ARE THE NEIGHBORS,  
FRIENDS, AND  
CONTEMPORARIES OF THE  
MUROMTSEVS. LOOK FOR  
US BY PAGE NUMBER.



Markel Ignatov  
1862-1941  
(7)



Nadia Trifonova  
1910-1969  
(32)



Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn  
1918-2008  
(42)



Gulmira (Gulya) Akhmetova  
b. 1968  
(43)



Lev Orlik  
1892-1937  
(12, 14, 19)



Iskra Orlik  
1931-2000  
(20, 23)



Marfa Pavlova  
1887-1938  
(7)



Sakha Gribov  
b. 1942  
(39, 40)



Ravil Akhmetov  
b. 1967  
(43)



Lyalya Orlik  
(Comrade Nikitina)  
1900-1968  
(12, 14, 17, 19, 20, 23)



Igor Yaroslavsky  
1892-1919  
(8, 10)



Olga Petukhova  
1897-1972  
(16, 18, 19)



Zheka Petrov  
b. 1945  
(33)



Snezhok  
1945-1960  
(27)



Malysh  
1945-1949  
(27)



Pushok  
1945-1950  
(27)



Aleksandr Blok  
1880-1921  
(15)



Sonya (Sonechka)  
Gordon  
1907-1980  
(17, 19, 27, 42)



Ivan Petukhov  
1895-1938  
(16, 19)



Murka  
1941-1948  
(27)



Petya Ostrovsky  
1900-1989  
(12, 14)



Leon Trotsky  
1879-1920  
(12)



Vera Pavlovna  
Shuiskaya  
1860-1941  
(17, 18, 19)



Vladimir Lenin  
1870-1924  
(12)



Joseph Stalin  
1878-1953  
(23)



Lyuba Volkova  
1906-1990  
(9, 11)



Liza Volkova  
1908-1918  
(9, 11)



Sergei Esenin  
1895-1925  
(19)



John Smith  
1937-2012  
(17)



Oleg Shchurov  
1953-1980  
(38, 41)



Masha Utkina  
b. 1952  
(41)



Vera Apse  
1920-1997  
(26, 31, 35, 37, 43, 49)



Anton Apse  
1920-1998  
(26, 31, 35)



Valya Vorontsova  
b. 1936  
(36)



Kostik Alekhin  
1937-2015  
(36)



Marina Chernovich  
1937-2010  
(36)



Borya Apse  
b. 1938  
(26, 31, 35, 37)



Lyonya Demyanov  
b. 1961  
(47)



Nikita Golubev  
b. 1964  
(47)



Mikhail Gorbachev  
b. 1931  
(46)



Andrei Sakharov  
1921-1989  
(42)

## Afterword

They say the past is like a foreign country. But is it? After all, the past is everywhere, and it doesn't vanish. Many objects in our homes preserve our family history. And through the family history, they preserve the country's history. At some point, all children wonder who their grandparents were, how their parents lived when they were little, and what relationships the people in old family photos have to them. The questions, and our replies, represent an important stage of development. Through talking about our personal and family histories, we introduce children to the outside world and explain who we are. There were times in Russia when many events and even members of your own family could not be mentioned. The children from those days now say, "No one ever told me anything about this," and, "We never talked about him or her." And now, it is sometimes hard to bring up these stories. Our book may suggest topics for such a conversation.

There are no secrets in this book. For an entire century, we were welcome guests in the Muromtsev apartment in one of Moscow's old buildings. The country's history is reflected in the family's joys and losses, hopes and disappointments, as it is in the stories and memories of any family that lived in the twentieth century. The songs on the radio, the books, the clothes in the wardrobe, and the meager or abundant fare on the family table are sometimes even more truthful witnesses than the people. You just have to listen to their stories. Which we did, and we passed them along to our readers so we could take a voyage into the past.

THE AUTHOR AND ARTIST EXPRESS ENORMOUS THANKS TO M. O. FILIPPOVA AND E. KOPYLOVA OF THE STATE PUBLIC HISTORICAL LIBRARY OF RUSSIA FOR THEIR HELP ON THIS BOOK.

WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY:

EKATERINA MINOVA,  
NATALIA VASILKOVA,  
SERGEI KHALIZEV,  
TATINA MUYARCHIK,  
PETR PASTERNAK,  
ANDREI DESNITSKY,  
MARINA GRIBANOVA, AND  
NINA KUZMINA.

THE ARTIST THANKS ALL HER FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK FOR THEIR INVALUABLE HELP IN FINDING MATERIAL FOR THE BOOK.

THE AUTHOR THANKS L. V. SHABSHINA, E. N. KOROTKAYA, AND MIKHAIL ALTSHULLER FOR STORIES, PHOTOGRAPHS, AND UNLIMITED PATIENCE AND SUPPORT, AS WELL AS EKATERINA STEPANENKO FOR HELP ON THE BOOK.



Anna Desnitskaya

Alexandra Litvina

## Glossary

- abdicate:** To voluntarily give up power, especially of a hereditary ruling position.
- arms race:** A race between countries at odds with each other to build the largest military arsenal.
- Battle of Stalingrad, the (1942–1943):** A large World War II battle in which Russia successfully prevented Germany from capturing the city of Stalingrad (now called Volgograd).
- Bebel, August (1840–1913):** A German socialist politician and writer.
- Belovezha Accords (1991):** An agreement effecting the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (comprised of Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia).
- Berlin Wall, the:** The wall dividing the city of Berlin during the time that it was split between East Germany and West Germany.
- billeting:** The practice of housing military personnel in private homes by order of the government.
- blackout shades:** Heavy shades used to prevent enemy aircraft from locating populated areas.
- Bloody Sunday (January 22, 1905):** Workers march on St. Petersburg to protest the tsar, and soldiers open fire on the procession. This marks the beginning of the Russian Revolution of 1905.
- Bolshevik Party:** Political party originally led by Vladimir Lenin that eventually became the Communist Party.
- bourgeois class:** According to Karl Marx, a class of people who hold capitalist values.
- Brezhnev, Leonid (1906–1982):** Leader of the Soviet Union from 1964 to 1982. During this time, the Soviet military grew extensively, but the country was plagued by the Era of Stagnation.
- Brodsky, Joseph (1940–1996):** A Russian poet, exiled from the Soviet Union in 1972. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1987 and was the 1991 US Poet Laureate.
- burzhuika:** A type of iron stove used for heat—literally “little bourgeois.”
- capitalism:** A system of government and economics prioritizing profit and private or corporate ownership of businesses and assets.
- Caribbean Crisis (1962):** Commonly known as the Cuban Missile Crisis in the United States; a standoff between the US and the Soviet Union over the installation of nuclear missiles in Cuba.
- citizen:** A word used to address people who weren't members of the Communist party or among its sympathizers in the Soviet Union.
- Cold War:** An ideological and economic confrontation between Communism and capitalism. Historically, many believe it began around 1947 with the Truman Doctrine, which pledged aid to nations threatened by Soviet expansionism. It ended in 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed. It is characterized by high tensions between the United States and the USSR (and their respective allies) and the ever-present possibility of a nuclear confrontation between the two sides. The term “cold” is used because there was no large-scale fighting directly between the two sides, but they each supported major regional wars known as proxy wars.
- commissar:** A Communist party official.
- Commonwealth of Independent States:** Official partnership between Russia, Ukraine, and Belorussia created by the Belovezha Agreement in 1991. More countries joined in later years.
- communism:** A system of politics, government, and economics whose ideals consist of a classless society and the collective ownership of goods and property. In the Soviet Union, communism developed from the ideas of Karl Marx.
- comrade:** A word used to address members of the Communist party and its sympathizers in the Soviet Union.
- cosmonaut:** A Russian astronaut.
- cult of personality:** The encouraged excessive admiration and idealizing of a leader, such as Joseph Stalin; the term was popularized after Stalin's death by Nikita Khrushchev.
- dacha:** A country home.
- Doctors' Plot, the:** A fabricated conspiracy to murder Soviet leaders, blamed on a group of doctors, many of them Jewish.
- drachena:** A type of cake.
- Engels, Friedrich (1820–1895):** A German writer and philosopher who, along with Karl Marx, wrote *The Communist Manifesto* and other foundational communist works.
- Era of Stagnation:** A period of economic difficulty in the Soviet Union beginning in 1964.
- Esenin, Sergei (1895–1925):** A Russian poet.
- fascism:** A political philosophy or regime that has a centralized government with a dictator. It often exalts race or nation over the individual.
- February Revolution (February 1917):** Rioters looking for food fought with the police and refused to leave the streets. This was the first stage of the Russian Revolution of 1917, in which the Tsarist system is overthrown and Russia becomes a Republic.
- footwrap:** A rectangular cloth used to wrap the foot in place of socks.
- Gagarin, Yuri (1934–1968):** The Soviet pilot and cosmonaut who was the first human in space; he successfully orbited Earth in 1961.
- gaiters:** Leg warmers; in early-twentieth-century Russia, they were like thick socks with buttons.
- Galich, Aleksandr (1918–1977):** A poet and songwriter whose work protested conditions in the Soviet Union.
- garters:** Straps to hold up stockings or socks.

**ghetto:** A crowded and economically disadvantaged area of a city in which a certain minority is forced to live (often Jews).

**glasnost:** Literally "openness"; a policy of a more transparent government and more freedom of the press in the Soviet Union, beginning in the late 1980s.

**GOELRO plan:** A government plan crafted in the early 1920s in order to spread electricity throughout the Soviet Union as part of a push for economic restructuring and general modernization.

**Gorbachev, Mikhail (b. 1931):** President of the Soviet Union from 1990 to 1991, when it was dissolved, in part due to his policies (especially perestroika and glasnost). He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990.

**gorko:** Bitter.

**Great Patriotic War, the:** A Russian term for the Eastern front of World War II.

**Great Purge, the:** Also known as the Great Terror. A campaign of political repression meant to purge the Communist party. Launched by Joseph Stalin, it was meant to eliminate any threat to his leadership.

**Gregorian calendar:** The most common calendar system used throughout the world; a slight adjustment to the Julian calendar. The Soviet Union adopted the Gregorian calendar (new style) in 1918.

**hammer and sickle:** A Communist emblem that appeared extensively throughout the Soviet Union and on the Soviet flag. The sickle (a type of farm tool) stood for peasants, and the hammer stood for the workers in the industrial sector—the two symbols together represented the unification of these two parts of the labor force as the working class.

**Ilyich lamp:** Light with a bare bulb that from the ceiling.

**Iron Curtain:** The metaphorical name for the division between the Eastern bloc and the Western world.

**jodhpurs:** Pants that are close-fitting from knee to ankle and wider around the hips, originally for horseback riding.

**Julian calendar:** The calendar system commonly used before the Gregorian calendar. Russia and the Soviet Union followed the Julian calendar (old style) until 1918.

**Khrushchev, Nikita (1894–1971):** Head of the Soviet Communist Party from 1953 to 1964 and leader of the Soviet Union from 1958 to 1964. He promoted an agenda of de-Stalinization and a liberalization of some Soviet policies.

**Khrushchevka:** A type of apartment building, inexpensively constructed, commonly erected in the Soviet Union in the early 1960s.

**Kirov, Sergei Mironovich (1886–1934):** A high-ranking Communist leader who was assassinated in 1934.

**kolkhoz:** A collective farm.

**Komsomol:** A Communist youth organization for teens and young adults in the Soviet Union.

**kopek:** A unit of Russian money, also used in some other Soviet countries. One hundred kopeks equal one ruble.

**Kremlin, the:** The seat of Russian and Soviet governments and the residence of some Soviet leaders.

**kulak:** A well-off peasant, persecuted in Soviet Russia.

**Lenin, Vladimir (1870–1924):** A major political and philosophical leader in the 1917 October Revolution and then the first governmental head of post-revolutionary Russia (1917 to 1924) and the Soviet Union (1922 to 1924). His views provided an important cornerstone for Soviet ideology and, after his death, became known as Leninism.

**Leningrad:** The name for St. Petersburg from 1924 to 1991.

**lifter:** An undershirt attached to garters.

**Little Octobrists:** Soviet children born in 1917, the year of the October Revolution. Also the term used for the Communist youth organization for young children (before they joined the Pioneers).

**Lizochek:** A diminutive of the name Lisa.

**Luxemburg, Rosa (1871–1919):** A Polish socialist thinker, writer, and activist.

**Marx, Karl (1818–1883):** German socialist revolutionary thinker much revered by Soviet leaders; the author of *The Communist Manifesto* (with Friedrich Engels) and *Das Kapital*, among other influential works.

**Marxism-Leninism:** The combination of Marxist and Leninist philosophies that formed the basis for the Soviet Communist perspective.

**May Day:** Commonly known as Labor Day in the United States; occurs on May 1 and is a celebration of workers.

**Moscow:** The capital of Russia and the USSR.

**Moscow Trials:** A series of large-scale trials during the Great Purge where leaders of the Communist Party were forced to confess themselves as traitors and spies.

**muff:** A tube, often made of fur, to keep one's hands warm.

**Mukhina, Vera (1889–1953):** A Soviet sculptor. Her most famous work is *Worker and Kolkhoz Woman*, originally created for the 1937 World's Fair in Paris.

**Muscovite:** A person who lives in Moscow.

**Narkompros:** Also known as the People's Commissariat for Education. The Soviet agency in charge of public education.

**NEPman:** One who engaged in private trade and small business under the New Economic Policy (NEP) from 1921 to 1928.

**October Revolution, the (1917):** Also known as the Bolshevik Revolution. Led by Vladimir Lenin, the Bolsheviks seize power and inaugurate the Soviet regime.

**pantaloons:** A type of undergarment.

**parasitism:** A charge in the USSR accusing someone of not working and benefiting instead from the work of others.

**parliament:** A legislative body made up of members of varying political parties.

**Pasternak, Boris (1890–1960):** A poet and novelist; author of *Doctor Zhivago*. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1958 but turned it down for fear of government retribution.

**perestroika:** A restructuring of Soviet economic policy

that relaxed government control over the economy and allowed for greater independence in the market.

**Pioneers:** A Communist youth organization for children in the Soviet Union. When the children got older, they joined Komsomol.

**pogrom:** A violent and deadly attack against a group of people, usually Jews.

**Pravda:** The Communist Party newspaper; widespread and very influential in the Soviet Union.

**proletariat:** The working class.

**Red Army:** The Bolshevik forces in the Russian Civil War (1917–1922) led by Vladimir Lenin. Later used generally to refer to the Soviet armed forces.

**Red Square:** A central square near the Kremlin in Moscow.

**red star:** A Communist symbol used widely in the Soviet Union.

**rehabilitation:** The clearing of one's name in the Soviet Union, sometimes posthumous, after having been accused of and often harshly punished for a supposed crime.

**ruble:** A unit of Russian money, also used in some other Soviet countries. One ruble equals one hundred kopeks.

**Russian Civil War (1917–1922):** An internal struggle for power in Russia following the October Revolution. It was fought between the Red Army and White Army.

**Russian Constitutional Assembly (1918):** An elected body formed after the October Revolution to create a constitution and government for the new Russia; dissolved by the Bolsheviks.

**Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (RSFSR):** The official name for Russia from 1917 to 1991.

**Saint Petersburg:** Capital of the Russian empire (pre-revolution) starting in 1712.

**Sakharov, Andrei (1921–1989):** A nuclear physicist who contributed important work to the Soviet hydrogen bomb and campaigned persistently for human rights in the Soviet Union. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975.

**salo:** A salted, preserved, fatty pork product popular in Russia and many Eastern European countries.

**samizdat:** An underground movement consisting of the secret production and distribution of banned literature in the Soviet Union.

**samovar:** A vessel used in Russia to heat water for tea.

**Second Front:** The Western front in World War II, beginning with the US invasion of Normandy, France, in 1944, which required the German army to fight in more than one military theater at a time.

**Second Patriotic War:** A Russian term for World War I.

**Seventeen Moments of Spring:** A television show about Max Otto von Stierlitz, a Russian spy in Nazi Germany. Stierlitz was immensely popular in Russia and the show had great influence on the country's culture and politics.

**shock workers:** A prestigious designation for particularly high-achieving or hard-working laborers in the early Soviet Union.

**Siberia:** A very cold and desolate area that comprised much of the eastern part of the USSR. It was often used as a place of exile and punishment.

**socialism:** A theory of economics and politics that endorses collective ownership and control of the production and distribution of goods.

**Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr (1918–2008):** Russian author of *The Gulag Archipelago* and *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* whose writing showed real life in the Soviet Union. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1970.

**Soviet-Afghan War (1979–1989):** A result of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 to aid the communist Afghan government against anti-communist Muslim resistance.

**Stalin, Joseph (1878–1953):** The authoritarian leader of the USSR from 1924 until his death in 1953, first as the head of the Communist party and then as the premier of the Soviet Union. His time in power was characterized by forced industrialization and increased Soviet influence in addition to brutally repressive policies and widespread executions.

**stilyaga:** A youth in the Soviet Union who dressed in modern, often Western, clothing.

**Thaw, the:** The period of increased liberalization under Nikita Khrushchev, beginning in the early 1950s.

**trench:** A deep ditch used in military engagements during World War I.

**Trotsky, Leon (1879–1940):** A Communist theorist; an organizer and leader in the October Revolution who was a member of the first post-revolutionary Soviet government. He eventually opposed Joseph Stalin and was exiled from the USSR in 1929, then assassinated in Mexico in 1940 on Stalin's orders.

**tsar:** The hereditary title of Russian emperors, in power until 1917.

**USSR:** The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, also known as the Soviet Union. At its largest, the USSR contained fifteen republics, which would become present-day Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The USSR had a one-party political system that was dominated by the Communist party.

**Vysotsky, Vladimir (1938–1980):** A very popular Soviet performer and poet.

**White Army:** The coalition of forces opposing the Red Army and Communism in the Russian Civil War (1917–1922).

**Wilhelm II, Kaiser (1859–1941):** The German emperor and King of Prussia during World War I.

**World's Fair:** An international exhibition of displays from many different countries, showcasing progress in a variety of areas; the first World's Fair was held in London in 1851.

**Yeltsin, Boris (1931–2007):** The first president of Russia after the dissolution of the USSR.

## Select Timeline of Russian/Soviet History (1899–2018)

Some terms and events are further explained in the glossary. (Note: The title of the head of state was not consistent during the Soviet years, so leader is used up until the election of the first president of Russia.)

- 1899** – Dramatist Anton Chekhov premieres his masterpiece *Uncle Vanya*.
- 1901** – The Socialist Revolutionary Party is founded. Anton Chekhov premieres *The Three Sisters*.
- 1904** – Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* is first performed.
- January 22, 1905** – Bloody Sunday occurs in St. Petersburg.
- October 1905** – Tsar Nicholas II issues the October Manifesto, which promises a legislative system whose members would be elected by popular vote.
- 1909** – Serge Diaghilev founds Ballets Russes in Paris, revolutionizing the art of ballet. The company never performs in Russia.
- 1910** – Igor Stravinsky composes the ballet *The Firebird* at Ballets Russes.
- 1913** – Vladimir Tatlin founds constructivism, an art movement featuring abstract elements. Stravinsky composes *The Rite of Spring* at Ballets Russes.
- July 28, 1914** – Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated, sparking World War I.
- August 1, 1914** – Russia enters World War I.
- February 1917** – The February Revolution occurs in Russia.
- November 7, 1917** – The October Revolution (also known as the Bolshevik Revolution) occurs in Russia. The Russian Civil War begins.
- 1918** – Aleksandr Blok, often regarded as the greatest Russian symbolist poet, writes "The Twelve" in response to the October Revolution.
- November 11, 1918** – World War I ends.
- August 5, 1920** – Naum Gabo and his brother Antoine Pevsner publish the Realistic Manifesto, a key text of constructivism. The manifesto lays out the brothers' theories of artistic expression in the form of five "fundamental principles" of constructivist practice. The text focuses largely on divorcing art from such conventions as use of lines, color, volume, and mass.
- 1921** – In early spring, famine strikes Russia, causing the deaths of more than seven million children over the next year.
- 1922** – Painter Marc Chagall, whose work draws on cubism and Russian folk art, leaves Russia for Paris. Naum Gabo and Antoine Pevsner also leave Russia.
- October 25, 1922** – The Russian Civil War ends.
- December 30, 1922** – Vladimir Lenin proclaims the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).
- January 21, 1924** – Vladimir Lenin dies. Soon after, Joseph Stalin becomes leader of USSR.
- 1925** – Sergei Eisenstein releases *Battleship Potemkin*, winning international acclaim and pioneering the use of montage, a film-editing technique.
- January 1928** – Stalin exiles Trotsky and a number of his followers to Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan.
- January 1929** – Trotsky is expelled from the Soviet Union.
- December 1, 1934** – Sergei Kirov is assassinated.
- 1936–1938** – The Great Purge (or Great Terror) occurs and many dissenting members of the Communist Party are executed because they are seen as a threat.
- September 1, 1939** – World War II begins when Germany invades Poland.
- August 1940** – Joseph Trotsky is murdered.
- June 22, 1941** – Germany invades Russia, and the USSR joins the war.
- May 9, 1945** – Germany formally surrenders. The Soviet Union celebrates the end of World War II (even though Japan will not officially surrender until September).
- September 2, 1945** – World War II officially ends when Japan surrenders.

**1947** – The Cold War begins between opposing powers in the Eastern Bloc (the Soviet Union and Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Albania) and powers in the Western world (the United States, its NATO allies, and others).

**March 5, 1953** – Joseph Stalin dies. Georgy Malenkov becomes leader of USSR.

**September 1953** – Following a power struggle with Malenkov, Nikita Khrushchev becomes leader of USSR.

**February 14–25, 1956** – The Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist Party is held, and Nikita Khrushchev's speech denounces Joseph Stalin's dictatorship and cult of personality.

**October 4, 1957** – The Soviet Union launches *Sputnik 1*, the first artificial satellite.

**1958** – Boris Pasternak wins the Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel *Doctor Zhivago*; his insights into Communist society prompt authorities to force him to refuse the prize.

**April 12, 1961** – Soviet Union cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin becomes the first man in space.

**October 1962** – The standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union known as the Caribbean Crisis (also known as the Cuban Missile Crisis) occurs.

**October 14, 1964** – Khrushchev is ousted from all positions of power. Leonid Brezhnev becomes leader of USSR.

**December 24, 1979** – The Soviet–Afghan War begins.

**July 19, 1980** – The Soviet Union hosts the opening ceremony for the Summer Olympics in Moscow. The United States is among the many countries that boycott the games because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

**November 12, 1982** – Two days after the death of Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov becomes leader of USSR.

**February 13, 1984** – Four days after the death of Andropov, Konstantin Chernenko becomes leader of USSR.

**May 8, 1984** – The Soviet Union initiates a boycott of the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, citing security concerns.

**March 11, 1985** – Following Chernenko's death on March 10, Mikhail Gorbachev becomes leader of USSR.

**August 19, 1991** – The August Coup, a Soviet coup d'état to take control of the country from Soviet President and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, fails.

**December 25, 1991** – The Soviet Union is officially dissolved, and Gorbachev resigns. The Russian Federation (Russia) assumes the rights and obligations of the former Soviet Union.

**June 12, 1991** – Boris Yeltsin is elected as the first president of the Russian Federation.

**December 25, 1991** – The Soviet Union collapses and the Cold War ends.

**December 31, 1999** – Yeltsin resigns and appoints Vladimir Putin president.

**May 7, 2000** – Vladimir Putin is officially inaugurated as president.

**March 2, 2008** – Dmitry Medvedev is elected president. Putin is appointed prime minister.

**April 8, 2010** – The New START treaty, which will reduce the nuclear arsenals of Russia and the United States by half, is signed.

**March 4, 2012** – Putin is reelected president (presidential elections will now occur every six years).

**February 7, 2014** – Russia hosts the opening ceremony for the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

**March 18, 2018** – Putin is again reelected president.

**June 14, 2018** – The 2018 FIFA World Cup, held in Russia, begins.

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Note: Most of the works were originally published in Russia, and some are not easily available in English.

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The author and illustrator also used a number of contemporary and archival newspapers and magazines for examples of period dress, everyday life, and social and political events. These included *Pravda*, *Pionerskaya Pravda*, *Ogonyok*, *Krokodil*, *Kostyor*, *Pioner*, *Niva*, *Krasnaya Niva*, *Zhensky Jurnal*, and *Rabotnitsa*.

## Where to Find the Poems and Songs in This Book

**Page 15:** "The Twelve," by Aleksandr Blok, 1918. See [russiasgreatwar.org/docs/twelve\\_notes.pdf](http://russiasgreatwar.org/docs/twelve_notes.pdf).

**Page 19:** "Last Tango" ("In Faraway Steamy Argentina . . ."), lyrics by Iza Kremer, 1914. See [youtube.com/watch?v=nqr3zMosHOo](http://youtube.com/watch?v=nqr3zMosHOo).

**Page 23:** "Two Falcons," lyrics by Mikhail Isakovsky, 1936. See [youtube.com/watch?v=Bq1w4t3kFaA](http://youtube.com/watch?v=Bq1w4t3kFaA).

**Page 36:** "Fierce and Stubborn," by Bulat Okudzhava, 1946. See [samlib.ru/a/alec\\_vagapov/okud-alldoc.shtml](http://samlib.ru/a/alec_vagapov/okud-alldoc.shtml).

**Page 40:** "Stanzas," by Joseph Brodsky, 1962. The version printed in this book was taken from an original samizdat and differs slightly from the standard version of that poem, as later published. The standard version of the poem can be found in *Collected Poems in English* (New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2002).

**Page 41:** "We're No Worse than Horace," by Aleksandr Galich, 1966. From *Songs & Poems* (Ann Arbor, MI: Ardis, 1983).

**Page 47:** "Oh!", lyrics by Natasha Borzhomova (N. Agapova), 1985. See [youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=4&v=wp-k5pBe4HQ](http://youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=wp-k5pBe4HQ).

**Page 47:** "A Million Red Roses," lyrics by Andrei Voznesensky, 1981. See [poetryrussian.blogspot.com/2014/02/normal-0-false-false-false-en-us-x-none\\_19.html](http://poetryrussian.blogspot.com/2014/02/normal-0-false-false-false-en-us-x-none_19.html).

**Page 50:** "I Want Change," lyrics by Victor Tsoi, 1986. See [rusmus.net/song/7257#2](http://rusmus.net/song/7257#2).

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# ЗА НАРОДНОЕ СЧАСТЬЕ,

ПРОЛЕТАРИИ ВСЕХ СТРАН СОЕДИНЯЙТЕСЬ! ПРОЛЕТАРИ ВСЕХ СТРАН, СЛЫШАЯСЬ! БРАТЯРЫ ВСЕХ СТРАН, СНАБИЖЕСЬ! БУДУЩИЕ ПРОЛЕТАРИИ, ПОМНИТЕ! БРАТЯРЫ ВСЕХ СТРАН, СНАБИЖЕСЬ! БУДУЩИЕ ПРОЛЕТАРИИ, ПОМНИТЕ!



СОВЕТСКИЙ

№ 258

Год изда

## 3 Пе

Товарищи! Закончили инициативы и документы Советского Союза.



### ДЖЕК-ЛОНДОН СИЛА СИЛЬНЫХ



СССР



СВИДЕТЕЛЬСТВО  
О РОЖДЕНИИ

...ние делегатов съезда наших мероприятий...  
...ведены за последние годы Центральным правительством в области сельского хозяйства.



ПИОНЕР НА КОНЬКАХ

ПАВЛУШКА



*Кировград 1960.*



Пусть дети нарисуют игру в футбол, в лошадки, в крокет, в лапту. Умея уже рисовать, они могут теперь легко освоиться с любой темой. Нарисовать пионера, комсомолку, красноармейца.

каждеркае или забаша  
 даде множино писани  
 лотехой то наши его  
 самуица по паре, нуни  
 оды она пачушиа ея во  
 мочя. Носки влянеице



**ГОССТРАХ СССР**  
**КОЛЛЕКТИВНОЕ**  
**СТРАХОВАНИЕ ЖИЗНИ**  
**УДОСТОВЕРЕНИЕ**

Выдано тов. Кривош  
Виктор Павлович

в том, что он застрахован в Госсстрах СССР  
 в Коллективном страховом обществе  
 (городе) Киров  
 (районе) Кировский  
 (сумму) 1000 руб.

Великий Новгород, 192... г.

53  
 Кривош  
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**КУЛАК УПОРСТВУЕТ** в сдаче хлеба  
**ОН ЧУВСТВУЕТ ПОДДЕРЖКУ СО СТОРОНЫ** излишков  
**оппортунистов, не желающих с ним ссориться**

**Начать действовать!**  
 Угрюмовский сельсовет всячески уклоняется от проведения в жизнь директив райительства о доведении вердых заданий по хлебоготовкам до кулацко-зажиточного двора.  
 Несмотря на ряд категорических предписаний райкома, кулацко-зажиточные дворяне. Перечислим:



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**ПОСТАНОВЛЕНИЕ**  
 школьного Совета школы № 435  
 об успеваемости и поведении  
 класса Кривош Виктор Павлович  
 (фамилия, и. о.)  
 за 1941/42 уч. год

**ПРОСЬБА К РОДИТЕЛЯМ:**

1. Ежедневно (по субботам) требовать от учащихся табель и внимательно просматривать, отмечая учителя и классного руководителя.
2. При неудовлетворительных оценках — посетить школу и переговорить с учителем.
3. По вопросам успеваемости и поведения учащихся обращаться к классному руководителю \_\_\_\_\_ класса т. Мадисову или к директору школы тов. Медведеву.
4. Подписывать табель в установленном месте, не допуская никаких других надписей.

Читали: \_\_\_\_\_ (личная подпись родителей)

Телефон родителей { Служебный № Т-1-41-92  
 Домашний № \_\_\_\_\_

Адрес родителей { Топкинский район д. 5  
поч. 10 кв. 377

1905  
 liches Neues Jab

Директор школы Медведев (подпись)  
 Секретарь педагогического совета школы Медведев (подпись)



Г.Р.

Местный Госплана И занявшую 1-ое место в соревнованиях по плаванию в УИ 1962 года

Председатель Комте  
Председатель ЦСС, Спа



КОСМОНАВТУ ЧЕ  
Каждый день миллионы  
страниц о подвигах  
и успехах  
НАШИХ  
Героев  
Газета основана  
5 мая 1912 г.  
В. И. ЛЕНИН

Коммунистическая  
Советского Союза, весь  
ский народ понесли тяж  
утрату. Оборвалась жизнь  
ющегося деятеля ленин  
партии и Советского гос  
ства, пламенного патр  
социалистической Род  
неутомимого борца за  
и коммунизм Юрия Влад  
ровича Андропова.



*At the heart of the bustling city of Moscow . . .  
In an old, weathered building . . .  
Up six flights of stairs and down the hall . . .*

The Muromtsevs have moved into their new apartment. They came in October 1902 with all their belongings: furniture, pots, pans, books, toys, and other family treasures. Though the apartment is new to them in the early 1900s, generation after generation of Muromtsevs will live there for the next century.

Things will change as the years go by. Some of the objects in the apartment will be passed down from one family member to the next. Some will disappear as time passes. Other lodgers will move in with the Muromtsevs. The children will grow up to have families of their own, and their children will ask what it was like to live in Russia long ago.

*The Apartment: A Century of Russian History* shows the monumental changes that Russia experienced from 1902 to 2002, including the Bolshevik Revolution, two World Wars, the rise of the USSR, the Cold War, the launching of *Sputnik*, and the eventual fall of the USSR to be replaced by the Russian Federation. Step inside this Russian apartment to discover one hundred years of Russian history and see how the Muromtsevs and their country change with the times!

*Alexandra Litvina* is a philologist who studied at Moscow State University before continuing her education at the Gorky Institute of World Literature in Moscow. She has written a number of history books for children. She lives in Russia.

*Anna Desnitskaya* is an author and illustrator who graduated from the Faculty of Graphic Arts. Her work has been nominated for a number of awards, including the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, one of the world's highest honors for children's and young adult literature. She lives in Russia.

Includes  
a timeline of  
Russian history  
from 1899-2018!



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