



# A House Made of Splinters

## DELVE DEEPER READING LIST



**This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Kim Rott, librarian at Sentinel High School in Missoula, MT, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary House Made of Splinters.**

## **Contributors**



### **Kim Rott , MLIS**

Kim Rott is an English teacher and Librarian at Sentinel High School where she urges her students to read broadly, think deeply, and research wisely. As a “Speaker in the Schools” for Humanities Montana, she teaches media literacy skills to students around Montana. She has a M.Ed. in library and information technology from Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pennsylvania.

### **DELVE DEEPER PRODUCERS:**

Jordan Thomas, POV | Education Assistant  
Courtney B. Cook, POV | Education Manager

# ADULT NON-FICTION

**Kolodko, Grzegorz. *Global Consequences of Russia's Invasion of Ukraine*. Springer, 2023.**

This book highlights the geopolitical and economic consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The author, a key architect of Polish economic reforms and the most frequently cited economist from post-Communist countries, shares new insights into the causes and mechanisms of the Second Cold War. Written in an unorthodox, bold and lucid style, the book raises provocative issues and provides convincing answers to some of the most difficult questions, such as who the true beneficiaries and interest groups behind the war are, and what their motives and conflicting goals are. The book also introduces readers to the greatest challenge of our time, climate change, and explores the long-term effects of the current arms race and rearmament spiral on global warming. This interdisciplinary book, which also addresses the challenges of inflation, mass migrations and clashes between democracy and authoritarianism, will appeal to anyone interested in the contemporary geopolitical shifts triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but also in the dynamics and directions of the evolution of the new cold war. -- From Back Cover

**Howard, Anne K. *ESCAPE FROM MARIUPOL: A Survivor's True Story*. WildBlue Press, Dec 3, 2022.**

In early 2022, life in the port city of Mariupol, Ukraine was safe and predictable for Adoriana Marik. The 31-year-old tattoo artist loved walking her dog by the seaside and meeting friends at cafes and public gardens. But all that changed on February 24, 2022, when Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his “special military operation.” Adoriana was forced to hide in a filthy network of basements and underground tunnels. For more than a month, under deafening round-the-clock bombardment, she huddled with little food or water, and no heat, surrounded by groans from the sick and the smell of death. She decided to escape. *ESCAPE FROM MARIUPOL: A Survivor's True Story* is the tale of her perilous journey to freedom, an incredible tale of a brave young woman's indomitable will to survive. As told to award-winning author Anne K. Howard, the book is a must-read for those who appreciate tales of extraordinary courage. -- From Publisher

**Plokhy, Serhii. *The Gates of Europe: A History of Ukraine*. Basic Books, 2021.**

As Ukraine is embroiled in an ongoing struggle with Russia to preserve its territorial integrity and political independence, celebrated historian Serhii Plokhy explains that today's crisis is a case of history repeating itself: the Ukrainian conflict is only the latest in a long history of turmoil over Ukraine's sovereignty. Situated between Central Europe, Russia, and the Middle East, Ukraine has been shaped by empires that exploited the nation as a strategic gateway between East and West—from the Romans and Ottomans to the Third Reich and the Soviet Union. In *The Gates of Europe*, Plokhy examines Ukraine's search for its identity through the lives of major Ukrainian historical figures, from its heroes to its conquerors.

This revised edition includes new material that brings this definitive history up to the present. As Ukraine once again finds itself at the center of global attention, Plokhy brings its history to vivid life as he connects the nation's past with its present and future.

**Reid, Anna. *Borderland: A Journey Through the History of Ukraine*. Basic Books, 2023**

Ukraine is gripped in a bloody crisis that has killed tens of thousands, displaced millions, and is transforming the world's energy policies and security architecture. As celebrated journalist Anna Reid shows in *Borderland*, this conflict is the latest of many. Ukraine has been a borderland, and a battlefield, for more than seven centuries, from the Mongol invasion of 1240 to the Maidan protests of 2014—and, of course, the devastating Russian invasion of 2022.

In this penetrating book, Reid combines research and her own experiences to chart Ukraine's tragic past and uncertain future. Talking to peasants and politicians, rabbis and racketeers, dissidents and paramilitaries, survivors of Stalin's famine and of Nazi labor camps, she reveals the layers of myth and propaganda that wrap this divided land. From the Polish churches of Lviv to the coal mines of the Donbass to the Tatar shantytowns of Crimea, the book explores Ukraine's struggle to build itself a national identity. Updated to include firsthand material from the 2022 Russia-Ukraine war, *Borderland* is essential reading for anyone looking to understand Ukraine and how its history is shaping its destiny.

**Zygar, Mikhail. *War and Punishment: Putin, Zelensky, and the Path to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine*. Scribner, July 25, 2023.**

As soon as the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, prominent independent Russian journalist Mikhail Zygar circulated a Facebook petition signed first by hundreds of his cultural and journalistic contacts and then by thousands of others. That act led to a new law in Russia criminalizing criticism of the war, and Zygar fled Russia. In his time as a journalist, Zygar has interviewed President Zelensky and had access to many of the major players—from politicians to oligarchs. As an expert on Putin's moods and behavior, he has spent years studying the Kremlin's plan regarding Ukraine, and here, in clear, chronological order he explains how we got here.

In 1996 to 2004, Ukraine became an independent post-Soviet country where everyone was connected to the former empire at all levels, financially, culturally, psychologically. However, the elite anticipated that the empire would be back and punish them. From 2004 to 2018, there were many states inside one state, each with its own rulers/oligarchs and its own interests—some of them directly connected with Russia. In 2018, a new generation of Ukrainians arrive, and having grown in an independent country, they do not consider themselves to be part of Russia—and that was the moment when the war began, as Putin could not tolerate losing Ukraine forever.

Authoritative, timely, and vitally important, this is an unprecedented overview of the war that affects us all and continues to threaten the future of the entire world as we know it.

# ADULT FICTION

**Lutsysyna, Oksana. (Nina Murray, translator) *Ivan and Phoebe*. Deep Vellum Publishing, June 20, 2023.**

*Ivan and Phoebe* spotlights the uproarious generation that led the Ukrainian independence movement of 1990; from subjugation to revolution to post-Soviet rule, it investigates the difficulties and absurdities of societal change and the families that change with it.

*Ivan and Phoebe* chronicles the lives of several young people involved in the Ukrainian student protests of the 1990's, otherwise known as the Revolution On Granite or the "First Maidan." The story bounces between politically charged cities like Kyiv and Lviv, and protagonist Ivan's small, traditional hometown of Uzhgorod. As characters come to exercise their rights to free speech and protest, they must also re-evaluate the norms of marriage, family, and home life. While these initially appear to be spaces of peace and harmony, they are soon revealed to be hotbeds of conflict and multigenerational trauma.

Married couple Ivan and Phoebe grapple with questions about family, trauma, and independence. Although Ivan tells the story, Phoebe's voice rings through the text as she divulges her own traumas through poetic monologues. The two reflect on the traumatic aftermath of revolution: torture at the hands of the KGB and each other. While Ivan refuses to talk about his pain, Phoebe describes her past through poetic monologues. Lutsyshyna's poetic form allows her to experiment with characterization and genre, creating her own category. Through her characters' vivid voices, Lutsyshyna creates a his- and her-story of Ukraine: a panoramic view of post-Soviet society and family life through social, political, and economic crises.

**Zhadan, Serhii. *The Orphanage: a novel*. Yale University Press, 2021.**

If every war needs its master chronicler, Ukraine has Serhiy Zhadan, one of Europe's most promising novelists. Recalling the brutal landscape of *The Road* and the wartime storytelling of *A Farewell to Arms*, *The Orphanage* is a searing novel that excavates the human collateral damage wrought by the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine. When hostile soldiers invade a neighboring city, Pasha, a thirty-five-year-old Ukrainian language teacher, sets out for the orphanage where his nephew Sasha lives, now in occupied territory. Venturing into combat zones, traversing shifting borders, and forging uneasy alliances along the way, Pasha realizes where his true loyalties lie in an increasingly desperate fight to rescue Sasha and bring him home.

Written with a raw intensity, this is a deeply personal account of violence that will be remembered as the definitive novel of the war in Ukraine.

# YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION

**Blohm, Craig. *The Unprovoked War: Russia's Invasion of Ukraine*. Referencepoint Inc., Nov 1, 2022.**

Current, clear, and uncluttered, this trio on the war in the Ukraine provides young readers with the background knowledge they need to understand one of the most pressing current events in global politics. *The Unprovoked War* presents clear background on how the Ukraine and Russia have been historically entwined, before delving into the contemporary Ukrainian political landscape. This context effectively articulates why the war happened then investigates the conflict itself. -- School Library Journal

**Brown, Don. *83 Days in Mariupol: a war diary*. Clarion Books, 2023.**

A young adult graphic novel that captures the complexities of the war in Ukraine, focusing on the siege of Mariupol (Feb '22 – May '22) and the brave people who stayed to defend their city against Russian forces as well as the resulting effects on global politics.

A city ruined. In once quiet residential streets, two armies battle, driving people into cellars and basements with little food or water. No lights or heat. Dwindling medical supplies. Shells and bullets deliver cruel, random death to the young and old, men, women, and children.

This is Mariupol, a Ukrainian city and early target of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Bordering Russian-occupied territory, the coastal city seemed doomed to a defeat that would come within days, if not hours. Could Mariupol, and Ukraine, survive? As Russian rockets threatened the city, Ukrainians resisted, and with a heroic combination of sacrifice and bravery, the besieged city endured . . . for months. But it all came at a steep cost.

With compassion and his keen journalist's eye, Sibert Honor creator Don Brown illuminates the horrors of Mariupol and the depredations of its people not seen in the city since World War II. He also shows that outside of Mariupol, the city's agonies were mirrored by similar events occurring in towns and cities across Ukraine.

*83 Days in Mariupol* reminds us that the bloody defiance shown at The Alamo, Dunkirk, Leningrad, and Thermopylae isn't confined to the past but has a violent, modern presence. It is the story of senseless destruction, patriotism, and grit against long odds—a brutal battle whose consequences still reverberate across Ukraine and continue to reshape the global political landscape.

**Krug, Nora. *Diaries of War*. Ten Speed Press, August 22, 2023.**

Powerful graphic journalism that brings to life diary entries of a Ukrainian journalist and a Russian artist grappling with the on-the-ground realities of Putin's war--by Nora Krug, National Book Critics

Circle Award winner and New York Times bestselling illustrator of the *On Tyranny* adaptation, with a foreword by award-winning historian Timothy Snyder

Immediately following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Nora Krug connected with two anonymous subjects--"K.," a Ukrainian journalist, and "D.," a Russian artist--and began what would become a year of correspondence. *Diaries of War* transforms Krug's weekly communications with K. and D. into an intimate, illustrated epistolary format.

In both the graphic adaptation of Timothy Snyder's *On Tyranny* and Krug's own memoir, *Belonging*, Krug touched on difficult, contentious topics, from personal and societal identity to political conflict and more, with immense skill and compassion. She brings the same moving thoughtfulness to this collection. With millions of Ukrainians displaced, injured, or killed as a result of the conflict, Krug provides a personal look at the sorrowful effects of war on an individual level--such as loss of resources, emotional and existential distress, displacement and disconnection.

Published as an Op-Comic with the Los Angeles Times, with some entries unique to the book, *Diaries of War* is a harrowing record of a heart-wrenching historical event that devastated the modern world and continues to alter countless lives.

**Skalietska, Yeva. *You Don't Know What War Is: The Diary of a Young Girl from Ukraine*. Union Square & Company, 2022.**

This is the gripping and moving diary of young Ukrainian refugee Yeva Skalietska. It follows twelve days in Ukraine that changed 12-year-old Yeva's life forever. She was woken in the early hours to the terrifying sounds of shelling. Russia had invaded Ukraine, and her beloved Kharkiv home was no longer the safe haven it should have been. It was while she was forced to seek shelter in a damp, cramped basement that Yeva decided to write down her story. And it is a story the world needs to hear.

Yeva captured the nation's heart when she was featured on Channel 4 News with her granny as they fled Ukraine for Dublin. In *You Don't Know What War Is*, Yeva records what is happening hour-by-hour as she seeks safety and travels from Kharkiv to Dublin. Each eye-opening diary entry is supplemented by personal photographs, excerpts of messages between Yeva and her friends and daily headlines from around the world, while three beautifully detailed maps (by Kharkiv-native Olga Shtonda) help the reader track Yeva and her granny's journey. *You Don't Know What War Is* is a powerful insight into what conflict is like through the eyes of a child and an essential read for adults and older children alike.

**Wolynn, Mark. *It Didn't Start with You: How inherited family trauma shapes who we are and how to end the cycle*. Penguin Random House, 2017.**

The latest scientific research, now making headlines, supports what many have long intuited—that traumatic experience can be passed down through generations. *It Didn't Start with You* builds on the work of leading experts in post-traumatic stress, including Mount Sinai School of Medicine neuroscientist Rachel Yehuda and psychiatrist Bessel van der Kolk, author of *The Body Keeps the Score*. Even if the person who suffered the original trauma has died, or the story has been forgotten or silenced, memory and feelings can live on. These emotional legacies are often hidden, encoded in

everything from gene expression to everyday language, and they play a far greater role in our emotional and physical health than has ever before been understood.

As a pioneer in the field of inherited family trauma, Mark Wolynn has worked with individuals and groups on a therapeutic level for over twenty years. *It Didn't Start with You* offers a pragmatic and prescriptive guide to his method, the Core Language Approach. Diagnostic self-inventories provide a way to uncover the fears and anxieties conveyed through everyday words, behaviors, and physical symptoms. Techniques for developing a genogram or extended family tree create a map of experiences going back through the generations. And visualization, active imagination, and direct dialogue create pathways to reconnection, integration, and reclaiming life and health. *It Didn't Start With You* is a transformative approach to resolving longstanding difficulties that in many cases, traditional therapy, drugs, or other interventions have not had the capacity to touch.

## BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

**Black, Claudia. *My dad loves me, my dad has a disease: a child's view of living with addiction*. Central Recovery Press, 2018.**

Children who grow up in addicted families usually learn at a very young age that it is not safe for them to openly talk about their family experiences. This updated edition of *My Dad Loves Me, My Dad Has a Disease* gives children ages five to twelve the opportunity to work through their feelings of loss, loneliness, fear, and frustration, both verbally and through drawing exercises. Through sharing their thoughts and feelings, children can develop a better understanding of addiction and how it affects their parent(s). Written from a child's point of view, this book has helped thousands of children and is a springboard for children to understand their own recovery process in a family ravaged by addiction.

**Davies, Nicola. *The Day War Came*. Walker Books, June 6, 2019.**

Imagine if, on an ordinary day, war came. Imagine it turned your town to rubble. Imagine going on a long and difficult journey - all alone. Imagine finding no welcome at the end of it. Then imagine a child who gives you something small but very, very precious...

When the government refused to allow 3000 child refugees to enter this country in 2016, Nicola Davies was so angry she wrote a poem. It started a campaign for which artists contributed drawings of chairs, symbolizing a seat in a classroom, education, kindness, the hope of a future. The poem has become this book, movingly illustrated by Rebecca Cobb, which should prove a powerful aid for explaining the ongoing refugee crisis to younger readers.

**Marshall, Linda Elovitz and Grasya Oliyko. *Brave Volodymyr: The Story of Volodymyr Zelensky and the Fight for Ukraine*. Quill Tree Books, Oct. 3, 2023.**

From acclaimed author Linda Elovitz Marshall comes a picture book biography of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that highlights the importance of standing up for what one believes in, defending freedom at all costs, and maintaining hope in the face of war's atrocities--with stunning art from Ukrainian illustrator Grasya Oliyko.

Volodymyr Zelensky wanted to make Ukraine a better, kinder, more joyful place. Born to Jewish parents, Volodymyr had much love and pride for his country. Growing up, even with Ukraine's various conflicts, he liked to make people laugh. After university, he became a comedian and actor. But he knew humor wasn't enough to fix his nation's ongoing problems. So, in 2019, he ran for president--and won!

Leading with honesty, heart, and humor, President Zelensky stood up for what he believed in, no matter how tough the situation. And when Ukraine was invaded, he bravely defended his country, the Ukrainian people, and their right to freedom at all costs.

**Nayeri, Dina. *The waiting place : when home is lost and a new one is not yet found*. Candlewick, 2022.**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) cites an unprecedented 79.5 million forcibly displaced people on the planet today. In 2018, Dina Nayeri—a former refugee herself and the

daughter of a refugee—invited documentary photographer Anna Bosch Miralpeix to accompany her to Katsikas, a refugee camp outside Ioannina, Greece, to record the hopes and struggles of ten young Farsi-speaking refugees from Iran and Afghanistan. “I wanted to play with them, to enter their imagined worlds, to see the landscape inside their minds,” she says. Ranging in age from five to seventeen, the children live in partitioned shipping-crate homes crowded on a field below a mountain. Battling a dreary monster that wants to rob them of their purpose, dignity, and identity, each survives in his or her own special way.

The *Waiting Place* is an unflinching look at ten young lives suspended outside of time—and bravely proceeding anyway. Each lyrical passage leads the reader from one story to the next, revealing the dreams, ambitions, and personalities of each displaced child. The stories are punctuated by intimate photographs, followed by the author’s reflections on life in a refugee camp. Locking the global refugee crisis sharply in focus, *The Waiting Place* is an urgent call to change what we teach young people about the nature of home and safety.

**Pearson, Julie. *Elliot*. Pajama Press, 2022.**

Elliot’s parents love him very much, but they don’t have all the skills they need to take care of a child. When he cries, they do not understand why. When he yells, they do not know what to do. When he misbehaves, they do not know how to react. One day a social worker named Thomas comes to visit, and Elliot’s world turns upside-down.

Manon Gauthier’s soft collage illustrations feature approachable rabbit characters, while Julie Pearson’s soothing, repetitive text guides Elliot gently through the foster child system. The new families that care for the little boy are kind, but everything is strange and new, and the sudden changes make him want to cry and yell *and* misbehave. Then, when it becomes clear that Elliot’s parents will never be able to raise him, Thomas sets out to find Elliot one last home—a forever, forever home with a family that will love and care for him no matter what.

**Sevigny, Charlaine. *The Tricky Sticky Addiction Monster*. Independently Published, 2022.**

*The Tricky Sticky Addiction Monster* tackles a heavy subject in a lighthearted and straightforward manner. Sam is a young boy whose mom meets the Addiction Monster. As the Monster gains a hold on her, Sam learns that it is addiction, not his mom, that is the problem, that it's not his fault, and that he will be okay- no matter what happens.

The addiction that Sam's mom struggles with is not specified, allowing the book to be a help in many situations.

This book is a wonderful conversation starter, and a help for anyone looking for a way to explain addiction to a child, ages 5-10 years old.

Beautifully illustrated, it's a must-have resource for therapists, social workers, foster parents, counselors, teachers, and anyone spending time with a child who has experienced the consequences

of addiction.

**Shatokhin, Oleksandr. *Yellow Butterfly: A story from Ukraine*. Red Comet Press, January 31, 2023.**

A wordless picture book portrayal of war seen through the eyes of a young girl who finds hope in the symbolism of yellow butterflies against the background of a pure blue sky. Using the colors of his national flag, Oleksandr Shatokhin has created a deeply emotional response to the conflict in Ukraine and provided a narrative full of powerful visual metaphors for readers to consider as they travel from the devastating effects of war to a place of hope for peace and the future.

A portion of the sale of this book will be donated to the Universal Reading Foundation who supply children's books to Ukraine.

Back matter includes notes on sharing a wordless picture book and how to talk to children about war.