



# **IN THE REARVIEW**

## **DELVE DEEPER READING LIST**



**These suggested readings provide a range of perspectives on issues raised by the POV documentary *In the Rearview* and allow for deeper engagement. This list of books was created by Constance Zack of the School Library Association of Rhode Island.**

In a volunteer aid van occupied by multiple generations of civilians, an authentic, intimate observation of the war in Ukraine unfolds. Each passenger is unique in age, origin and circumstance, but alike in where they find themselves — huddled together in a cramped back seat. Bound for Poland, the vehicle operates as a shelter, waiting room, hospital and confessional.

# ADULT NON-FICTION

**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

**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

**Maidukov, Sergey. *Life on the Run: One Family's Search for Peace in War-torn Ukraine*. Rowman and Littlefield, 2024.**

Driven from Ukraine by Russia in early 2022, author Sergey Maidukov and his family joined millions of refugees trying to piece together their lives in the wake of Putin's war. Rich with emotion, the story follows their flight to Poland and eventual return to Kyiv, as they search for moments of love, courage, and hope. This memoir is a firsthand glimpse into the lives of Ukrainians through one family's story. Sergey Maidukov, with gravity and passion, tells the story of how he escaped Ukraine along with his wife, daughter, and granddaughter in February 2022, their second displacement by Russia's terror. With stories of family, hardship, hope, and fear, the author has captured a journey that has revealed much more than suffering; it has taken them to new levels of patriotism, new values, and a new appreciation for their home country.

**Miro, Stefania. *A Light in the Darkness: Escaping the War in Ukraine*. Prime, 2023.**

This is a poignant and inspiring memoir that not only chronicles the harrowing experiences of war and escape but also unfolds as a deeply personal tale of spiritual awakening. It reminds us that even in the depths of profound tragedy, hope and faith can emerge, guiding us toward a new dawn.

**Murza, Olena. *War in Ukraine: Survival Diaries from Occupied Mariupol*. Prime, 2024.**

This gripping memoir offers an unfiltered look at the lives of ordinary citizens caught in the flames of the Russian-Ukrainian war, and stories of life under siege in Mariupol during the first months of the Russian-Ukrainian war. As you delve into these first-hand accounts, you will gain a deeper understanding of the resilience and humanity that flourished amidst the chaos. Using the example of one small family of now elderly people, this book vividly describes how the people of Mariupol organized themselves, providing the weak with food and water, helping the wounded, and treating the dead respectfully.

**Ponomarenko, Illia. *I Will Show You How it Was*. Bloomsbury, 2024.**

A heart-wrenching memoir of the war on his homeland, offering a fiery diatribe against Russian hypocrisy and a moving look at what is being lost. But it's also a story of pride and even elation as Ukrainian forces come together, find their mojo, and oust the invaders from Kyiv.

**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.

**Russell, Robert G. *Escaping Ukraine: A True Story of a Daring Rescue*. Independent, 2023.**

A true story of one man's harrowing journey to rescue his family from the war-torn region of Ukraine in March of 2022. Through his courageous efforts, he sheds light on the plight of those trapped in conflict zones and provides a glimpse into the humanity that still exists amidst the chaos of war. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the resilience of the human spirit and the power of love, determination, and the unbreakable bond of family.

**Schuster, Simon. *The Showman: Inside the Invasion that Shook the World and Made a Leader of Volodymyr Zelensky*. Harper Collins, 2024.**

*Time* correspondent Simon Shuster chronicles the life and leadership of Volodymyr Zelensky from the dressing rooms of his variety shows to the muddy trenches of Ukraine's war with Russia. Based on four years of reporting; extensive travels with President Zelensky to the front; and dozens of interviews with him, his wife, his friends and enemies, his advisers, ministers and military commanders, Shuster tells the intimate and revealing story of the president's evolution from a slapstick actor to a symbol of resilience.

*The Showman* provides the first inside account of Zelensky's life amid the invasion, offering a clear-eyed view of his failures to prepare for it and his willingness to silence dissent under martial law. What emerges is a complex picture of a man struggling to break what he sees as a historical cycle of oppression that began generations before he was born. Even as the war drags on, Zelensky lays out his vision for its future course and, through his actions, demonstrates his strategy for countering the Russians and keeping the West on his side.

**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

**Kross, Lara. *Sunflowers in Exile: A Ukrainian Refugee's Diary of Survival and Hope*. Prime, 2024.**

As bombs fall on her beloved city, Oksana makes the heart-wrenching decision to flee with her young daughter, leaving behind her husband and the only life she's ever known. In Germany, she faces the challenges of building a new life in a foreign land – learning a new language, navigating unfamiliar customs, and grappling with the guilt of leaving loved ones behind.

**Lutsyshyna, 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.

**Rafeyenko, Volodymyr. *Mondegreen Songs about Love and Death*. Harvard University Press, 2022.**

A mondegreen is something that is heard improperly by someone who then clings to that misinterpretation as fact. This novel explores the ways that memory and language construct our identity, and how we hold on to it no matter what. The novel tells the story of Haba Habinsky, a refugee from Ukraine's Donbas region, who has escaped to the capital city of Kyiv at the onset of the Ukrainian-Russian war. His physical dislocation-and his subsequent willful adoption of the Ukrainian language-place the protagonist in a state of disorientation during which he is forced to challenge his convictions.

**Rosone, James and Miranda Watson. *Battlefield Ukraine: Book One of the Red Storm Series*. Prime, 2022.**

When superpowers collide.....a single shot can ignite a global disaster. Will the Ukrainian conflict start WWII? Barely settled into the White house, the new American President is faced with a choice. With the

smartest military advisers by his side, and the Joint Chiefs prepared for war, he must give the order. Who will he listen to? What's the correct move? In Moscow, the memory of the long winter never fades. The Ukraine to the Kremlin's plans and the Americans are meddling where they don't belong. This chess match will change the world. Never has technology been so advanced. But that alone won't win the day.

**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 BOOKS

**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, Dan. *83 Days in Mariupol: A War Diary*. Clarion, 2023.**

A YA graphic novel which tells the story of senseless destruction, patriotism, and bravery against all odds as it focuses on the people of the Ukrainian city of Mariupol who stayed to defend their home against Russian forces.

**Duffy, Malcolm. *Seven Million Sunflowers*. Zephyr, 2024.**

15-year-old Kateryno and her family live in Kharkiv. Their lives are shattered when on February 24th 2022 the Russian army invades. Their apartment block is struck by a missile. After weeks living in their basement, Kateryno, her mother, and brother, decide to leave, joining seven million Ukrainian refugees. They come to England and meet their host family, the Hawkins. But their new beginning brings a whole new set of problems."

**Love, Julia. *Fleeing the War in Ukraine: Suddenly Becoming a Teenage Refugee*. Ark House Press, 2024.**

Sveta and her family have lived happily all their life in a quiet Ukrainian village. However after the neighbor's block of flats is bombed by a Russian missile, and Sveta makes a gruesome discovery, her tiny safe world gets turned upside down. Her father immediately decides that the time has come for Sveta, her mother and small brother to leave and travel by train, to a safer nearby country until the war is over. The story follows Sveta's adventures on the journey to eventually cross the border into Poland and start a new life.

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

A memoir about the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war as told through the diary entries of a young Ukrainian girl.



# BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS

**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.

**Campbell, Camille. *Colors of Ukraine. Time Together*, 2024.**

A biography of Maria Prymachenko, a famous Ukrainian artist. It depicts how Maria is able to find joy through the creation of works of art and how focusing on beauty during difficult times helps make the world a more beautiful place.

**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.

**Fox, Julie. *Katya's Sunflowers*. Blurb, 2022**

This book tells the true story of a Ukrainian woman, Katya, who saved two Jewish boys during World War 2. The boys grew up and left Ukraine while staying in touch with Katya and her family. 80 years later (and after Katya's death), when the current Russian invasion of Ukraine began in February of this year, the children of those two boys flew back to Ukraine. They rescued Katya's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren by moving the whole extended family from Ukraine to nearby Poland.

**Fox, Julie. *Goodbye, Emma*. Prime, 2019.**

A young refugee can only fit a few possessions in his suitcase but the very hardest thing for him to leave is his beloved dog, Emma. It helps children relate to the hardships, both physical and emotional, of children fleeing war as it tells the story of a child refugee who is forced to leave behind his pet when his family leaves the country.