

Russia is a country that is begging wars for centuries. Russian-Ukrainian war was started eight years earlier in 2014. Just the whole world didn't react properly. And I'm not that kind of person who is living in some rainbow skies and believe in a friendship between Russia and Ukraine. I was that kind of person who expected invasion. I just didn't know how big scale it would be and how cruel Russian army would be.

On the 23rd of February, I felt terrible, I shared in IG with my followers about my fear and the possibility of war. At that moment everyone was calm and people supported me, people were sure that nothing will happen. But I felt something bad right here. And mixing what people could think, it's that Russia will attack us again by this scenario of 2014 from the East. Nobody could even think that it would happen so big from the north, from the east and from the south. Little did we know what would happen to us less than in 24 hours.

My last conversation before war was about war with my friend Lera. We laughed, you know, she cheered me up because I was frightened of possibility, the war could happen very soon, and you know, she took away all my worries, and it was six hours before the invasion started. And it was my last conversation in a peaceful life. It was my last conversation when I speak Russian. We did speak Russian together. After that, everything changed.

7 o'clock in the morning, 24th of February, I got a message from my sister Yuliia, and I immediately woke up Borya, and said that, it started. It's the war. A few minutes later I got a voice message from my mom in our family group chat. You know, her voice sounds so calm to me. She really was ready for it even though a few days earlier, if we talk about this, she was sure that nothing will happen, but on that day, she was ready for it. She calmed us down, me and my sister, and she sounds to me like some superhero from this DC comics Wonder Woman. She asked us, "Do not panic. Keep calm, keep our mind clear, and like, it's gonna be fine, it's gonna end soon" this is what she said.

On that day there was a lot of messages to my friends, to relatives, to people who I didn't talk for years. Everyone asked, "How is my family?" I asked them, "How are they? How is the situation in their cities?" People talked. I was 24 hours online. I called my brother, he, at that moment he was in Singapore on his sailor contract. He served in army in 2014 on the east, and I knew that he will go to war. And I asked him please, please stay in Singapore, be safe, it's gonna be fine. I tried to change his mind, and that there is no flight to Ukraine, he is going to stuck somewhere on the halfway, but he said that he made up his mind already, and he have submitted the report of his dismissal. So it was too late.

My family is in a relative safety, they decided to stay in Ukraine, and most of my relatives are living in Odessa region, which is on the south, one and a half hour driving by car to Mykolaiv, which is very close to the front line. Odessa is a big tourist port city on the south, and of course, it's a desired piece of cake for Russians. But we

have Mykolaiv. Mykolaiv protected us from first days of war. Odessa people will always remember it. We are grateful to Mykolaiv.

Speaking about me, I personally made a decision to speak only Ukrainian. Before the war, I spoke Ukrainian in school, in university, in some government institutions, with some of my relatives, particularly with my grandparents. And I would say that 90 % of my surroundings spoke Russian and Surzhik. Surzhik is a Ukrainian word that could refer to any mixed language. In a certain part of regions in Ukraine, not necessarily including Ukrainian and Russian. It could be Ukrainian and Moldova, Ukrainian and Romanian, Ukrainian and, I don't know, Belarusian. So, every region of Ukraine has their own Surzhik. After war had started, language situation had completely changed. I would say that 70-75% from people I know already had switched to Ukrainian. It's very beautiful language.

Back to my family, as I said, all of them decided to stay in Ukraine. And for the past seven months, they get used to the sirens, to the curfew, to the sound of shot down rockets, to the sound of air system defense working, to sleep on the floor, to basement, to eat in corridor cause it's the safest place in apartment, to live in endless fear that any moment a Russian rocket can destroy everything around you.

My parents used to help with the food to the local territorial defense center. My mom used to cook a lot of food for the first month and papa just drove by his car, helped somehow those soldiers who protected us. Also they weaved camouflage nets with the other volunteers in school.

Oleksa tried to enlisted army and territorial defense since February, but they didn't need to at that moment. They put his name on the list and asked to wait. After three months on the waiting list, military commissariat finally called him in the middle of the June to be prepared. On 5th of July he went for training course, 5th of August he was sent to his first combat mission. Two weeks after his combat mission and one and a half month of no seeing each other and eight days of completely harsh, he didn't have a connection in the military front line. Oleksa back home for two days. We are so proud of him having no combat experience, moreover, not having served in army at all, go to war to protect your country, your family. This is a brave act. At the moment he become a brigade paramedic. His brigade had liberated Izyum and we are so proud of him. He's our hero.

The biggest change that happened to Ukrainians is that we are not considering Russia is our friend anymore or big brother or whatever you call it. We don't want to have anything in common with them. We are independent, and we are proud to be Ukrainian. We are grateful to the ZSU and the other forces to protect us. So many millions still stay in Ukraine and believe in our bright future.

Слава Україні Слава ZSU (Glory to Ukraine! Glory to ZSU!)

俄羅斯是一個幾世紀以來一直在製造戰爭的國家。俄烏戰爭始於八年前，在 2014 年。不過整個世界並沒有做出適當的反應。我不是那種生活在彩虹天空下，相信俄羅斯和烏克蘭之間有友誼的人。我是那種預測入侵終將會發生的

人。我只是不知道它會有多大規模，俄羅斯軍隊會有多殘忍。

2月23日，我感到很糟糕，我在IG上與我的朋友分享了我的恐懼和戰爭可能性。那時每個人都很冷靜，人們支持我，人們確信不會發生任何事情。但我心中感受到了一些不好的事情。綜合人們所能想到的是俄羅斯會再一次攻擊我們，如同2014年一樣的情況從東邊發動攻擊，沒有人甚至能夠想像他們會從北方、東方和南方發生如此大規模的攻擊。我們絲毫不知道在24小時內，戰爭就要發生在我們身上。

我在戰爭爆發前最後一次對話是關於戰爭的，與我的朋友Lera。我們還有說有笑，她還鼓舞我，因為我被戰爭很快就要發生的可能性嚇壞了，她消除了我所有的擔憂，這是在入侵開始六個小時之前，那是我在和平生活中的最後一次談話，那是我最後一次用俄語談話。戰爭之前我們確實用俄語交談，之後一切都改變了。

烏克蘭時間2月24日早上7點，我收到了我姐姐Yuliia的一條消息，我立即叫醒了Borya，告訴他戰爭開始了。全面戰爭。幾分鐘後，我在我們家庭群組聊天中收到了我媽媽的語音訊息。你知道，她的聲音聽起來是如此平靜。她已經準備好了，儘管在開戰前幾天我們談論到這個，她仍確信什麼都不會發生，但那天，她已經準備好了。她安撫了我們(我和我姐姐)，她聽起來像一個來自DC漫畫中的超級英雄，像神力女超人。她告訴我們，「不要恐慌。保持冷靜，保持頭腦清醒，一切都會好轉，很快就會結束。」這是她說的話。

那天，我給朋友、親戚、多年未聯繫的人發了很多訊息。每個人都問：「我的家人怎麼樣？」我問他們：「他們怎麼樣？他們所在城市的情況如何？」大家相互交談。我24小時都在線上。我打了電話給我的堂弟，他當時在新加坡執行他的船員合同。他在2014年在軍隊服役過，在烏東。我知道他會回去參加戰爭。我拜託他留在新加坡，保護自己，一切都會好的。我試圖改變他的想法，告訴他沒有航班去烏克蘭。他會被困在半途中。但他說他已經下定決心，並已提交了辭職報告。所以已經太遲了。

我的家人相對安全，他們決定留在烏克蘭，我的大部分親戚都住在南部的敖德薩地區，開車一個半小時就可以到達梅科萊夫，距離前線很近。敖德薩是南方的旅遊大港城市，當然也是俄羅斯垂涎已久的目標。但我們有梅科萊夫。梅科萊夫在戰爭的第一天保護了我們。敖德薩人將永遠記得它。我們感謝梅科萊夫。

就我而言，我個人決定只說烏克蘭語。戰前，我在學校、大學、一些政府機構和我的一些親戚，特別是我的祖父母講烏克蘭語。我想說，我周圍90%的人都會說俄語和蘇爾日克語(Surzhyk)。Surzhyk是一個烏克蘭語單詞，可以指任何混合語言。在烏克蘭的某些地區，不一定只是形容烏克蘭語和俄語。可能是烏克蘭語和摩爾多瓦語、烏克蘭語和羅馬尼亞語、烏克蘭語和……，我不知道，白俄羅斯語。因此，烏克蘭的每個地區都有自己的Surzhyk。戰爭開始後，語言狀況有了徹底的變化。我想說的是，我認識的人有70%-75%已經改用烏克蘭

語了。這是非常美麗的語言。

至於我的家人們，正如我所說，他們都決定留在烏克蘭。在過去的七個月裡，他們習慣了空襲警報聲、宵禁、火箭被擊落的爆炸聲、防空飛彈系統的爆炸聲、習慣睡在地板上、睡在地下室、在走廊上吃飯，因為那裡是公寓裡最安全的地方，生活在無盡的恐懼之中，擔心俄羅斯火箭隨時可能摧毀你身邊的一切。

我的父母曾經提供食物幫助當地的領土防衛隊中心，我媽媽在第一個月時烹煮很多食物，爸爸開著他的車把它送去給保護我們的士兵。他們也和學校的其他志工一起編織迷彩網。

自二月以來，Oleksa(姊夫)就試圖加入軍隊或是領土防衛隊，但是當時都還不需要(因為報名的人太多)。他們把他的名字列入名單並要他等候。在等候名單上三個月後，軍事委員終於在六月中旬打電話告訴他做好準備。七月五日，他參加了訓練課程；八月五日，他被派往第一個戰鬥任務。在他執行戰鬥任務兩週後，已經一個半月沒有見面，八天完全沒有音訊(前線通訊管制)。Oleksa得到休假回家兩天，情況就是這樣。我們為他感到驕傲，他沒有戰鬥經驗，而且，也未曾服過兵役，仍然參軍去保護我們的國家、我們的家人。這是一個非常勇敢的舉動。目前他成為隊上裡的醫護人員。他的部隊解放了伊久姆，我們為他感到驕傲，他是我們的英雄。

但我認為烏克蘭人發生的最大變化是，我們不再認為俄羅斯是我們的朋友或兄弟或無論你怎麼稱呼它。我們不想與他們有任何共同點。我們是獨立的，我們為自己是烏克蘭人而感到驕傲。我們感謝 ZSU(烏克蘭武裝部隊)和其他部隊的保護。仍有數百萬人留在烏克蘭，並且相信我們仍然有光明的未來。

Слава Україні Слава ZSU (榮耀屬於烏克蘭！榮耀屬於 ZSU！)