



# VARVARA ROMANENKO, *6 years old*

*Bucha city,*  
*Kyiv region*

Seven days without fresh air and without sun. For seven days, Varya did not go outside and shuddered at the terrible sounds. She first heard the word "war" on February 24, and now she learned its terrible meaning every hour. Planes and rockets roared over their house, and the mother tried to play with her a lot so that her daughter would not be afraid.

February 27 was the hardest. Then, there was a fierce battle on the next street, their house was shaking from powerful explosions, and mom and dad were praying incessantly.

On March 2, Dad returned from work and said, "You have 10 minutes to meet." This was the day when Varya left home for the first time during the war. It was very risky to move around the city, bullets were whistling around and explosions were heard. But

staying at the epicenter of the fighting was even more dangerous.

Varya and her mother were taken away by their father's employees. He took them to Kyiv, to the railway station. Dad stayed in the occupied city.

Varvara celebrated her sixth birthday abroad, together with her mother and grandmother. On this day, the girl asked very, very much: "Let the war end, so that we can go home soon, to Dad!"

## *For reference*

*Romanenko family:*  
*father Oleksiy Romanenko (firefighter, 38 years old), mother - Olga Romanenko (hairstylist, 35 years old), Varvara (6 years old). They lived in Bucha, Kyiv region. The war separated them.*

