



ZLATA KESHELYA, 7 years old

*City of Irpin,
Kyiv region*

Zlata will not be able to forget her mother's frightened face when the first explosion was heard outside the window. There were panic, fear, and tears.

At 6 am, a girl with her parents and eleven-month-old brother Ivanko ran to the basement. They took with them only a blanket and an eager suitcase with the essentials. There were already many people in the basement, scared and confused. Little children were screaming and crying.

So, three days passed. People ate together, slept, and shared everything they had.

On the fourth day, Keseli decided to leave the city and go to his relatives in Western Ukraine. There was continuous smoke outside the car window, explosions were constantly heard, and planes were roaring in the sky. All this frightened the children,

and huge traffic jams and 19 hours on the road took away the last of their strength.

Mothers with children have gone abroad. But without Dad. He remained in Ukraine to help the front. Zlata is very proud of that. "Before the war, my father was a businessman and became a volunteer. I am very proud of him. He is a good magician for me because he helps others," the girl says with undisguised pride. Now her dream is to return to Irpin: "I was given a bicycle for the New Year, my father promised to teach me to ride. I want to do it only in my favorite park "Central". I believe that Ukraine will win, we will return home and my family will be together again. "

For reference

Kesheliv family: father – Ivan, a specialist in the purchase of raw materials (before the war he worked at the glass factory "Vetropack" in Gostomel, which was completely destroyed by the racists), 36 years; mother – Victoria, senior specialist in retail projects and administration, 34 years old; daughter – Zlata, schoolgirl, 7 years old; son – Ivan, 11 months

