



LYDIA ZHUKOVA, 7 years old

Borodyanka *village*,
Kyiv region

The third hour of the night. The fifth night of the war. It's spring. The light from the phone screen does not give a feeling of security, only states the fact: alive. Seven-year-old Lida sleeps next to her mother dressed and wearing shoes. From time to time, the question comes from her children's lips: "Mom, are they bombing?". And no tears.

The girl grew up immediately, but didn't get any crueler. Unless she made a weapon out of a stick and paper specifically for Putin. And the place where he will be buried, too, prepared.

During each air bombardment, the carpet at the entrance to the basement rose to the ceiling, and sand and cement poured from it. The house was shaking, the ground was humming, and my ears were ringing. And between the shelling, the other children (Elijah, Svyatoslav, and Paul) were sitting on the

phone. The adults did not forbid them to do so, because there was no alternative to distract themselves from the horror above. A mother and her eldest daughter, Sophia, prayed and insulated the basement, and the men fortified the walls with sandbags. And Lidochka drew. "I painted the coat of arms, the flag, the viburnum, the rainbow, and us, the family. Friendly and happy. And then she stopped drawing," says Lida.

On the tenth day of hell, the Zhukov family was able to escape and reach relatives in Western Ukraine. But even there, during the night sirens of alarm, they could not breathe peacefully and all sat together in a tiny bathroom.

Only a month later, in peaceful Poland, where the family was surrounded by friends, Lida, and her family began to come to their senses and picked up a pencil again. All her drawings are full of light and happiness. And there is only one called "the greatest fear" (as Lida called it). This is her only and greatest fear - to lose Ukraine.

For reference

Zhukov family:

Dad - Vladimir, businessman; mother - Alexandra, by profession - dentist, poet and writer, entrepreneur in the field of educational literature and goods for children's development (lost her business during the occupation of Borodyanka); daughter - Sofia, a student of the Kyiv Municipal Academy of Music. Gliera, composer and singer, 18 years old; son - Elijah, a schoolboy, 13 years old; daughter - Lydia, schoolgirl, 7 years old.

They were evacuated on the 10th day of the Borodyanka bombing, March 4, 22. From 13.03.22 are in Poland, Minsk-Mazowiecki.

