

Voices of Freedom

CONTEMPORARY WRITING FROM UKRAINE

EDITED BY: KATERYNA KAZIMIROVA &
DARYNA ANASTASIEVA

Award-winning Ukrainian writers featured in this riveting and evocative collection of prose, poetry, essays, and photos.

Voices of Freedom: Contemporary Writing From Ukraine is a collection of Ukrainian writing that aims to introduce the English-speaking world to 27 of the most iconic living writers whose work is shaping contemporary Ukraine. These are leading intellectuals and moral authorities for the Ukrainian people, whose voices and opinions have helped to synchronize the internal compasses of Ukrainian society in the struggle for the freedom of their country. Through poetry, short stories, and essays, this collection demonstrates that the desire for freedom and the struggle to achieve it is a theme that cuts across generations of Ukrainian writers, and is a central preoccupation of Ukrainian society.

ADVANCED PRAISE

“This superb anthology of Ukrainian writers delights us with talented writing across all genres and brings home what it means to be a Ukrainian on the frontlines of freedom. This rich offering helps every American better understand Ukraine: the people, the culture, and the country.”

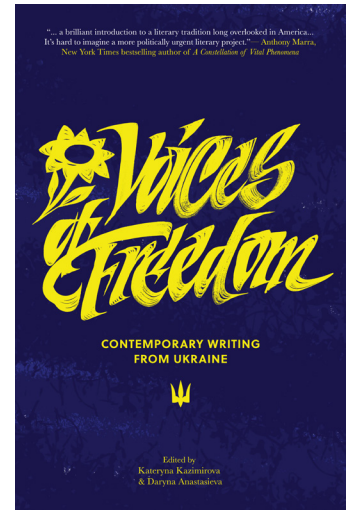
- **Marie Yovanovitch**, author of an instant *New York Times* bestseller *Lessons From The Edge: A Memoir*; Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine

“*Voices of Freedom: Contemporary Writing From Ukraine* is a brilliant introduction to a literary tradition long overlooked in America. By presenting a mosaic of perspectives, experiences, and forms, this volume showcases the depth, diversity, and resistance of the culture Putin seeks to erase. It’s hard to imagine a more politically urgent literary project.”

- **Anthony Marra**, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Tsar of Love and Techno* and *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*

“Defending Ukraine is not just the job of soldiers on the frontline. Writers, poets, publishers and artists also have their job to do and so this book is the right one at the right time. The more people abroad know Ukraine and understand it, the more they will understand why we need to stand in solidarity with it and with its people.”

- **Tim Judah**, British writer, reporter and political analyst for *The Economist*



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Kateryna Kazimirova is an editor and media manager. She holds Master's degrees in Philology (Ukrainian Language and Literature) and History of Art and a Postgraduate degree in Literary Theory from Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University. In 2020, she founded the Ukrainian art and literature journal *Craft Magazine* (craftmagazine.net), which publishes in-depth interviews with the most talented and creative Ukrainians to showcase to the world the leading voices of modern, free Ukraine. At the time of its founding, *Craft Magazine* was the only publication of this format that featured an English version of all texts.

Daryna Anastasieva is a journalist, co-founding editor of *Craft Magazine*, and head of the Radio PR Department in *Suspilne Ukraine* (Public Broadcast Company of Ukraine). She received a Master's degree in History of Ukrainian Literature at Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University. Anastasieva is a communications specialist, manager of cultural projects, and producer of creative studios and events.

AN EXCERPT FROM

Voices of Freedom: Contemporary Writing From Ukraine

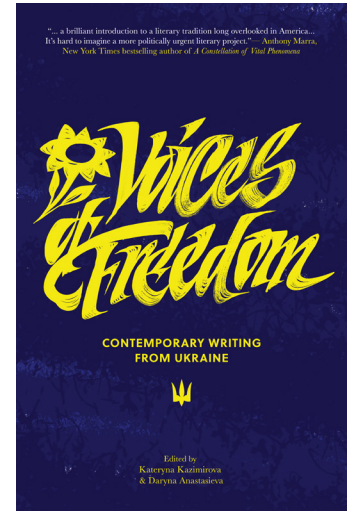
HOW WILL WE RETURN?

BY YULIYA MUSAKOVSKA

how will we ever return, my sister
digging the prickly hawthorn from beneath our nails
shadows have worn out sungods have aged
our hearts radiate fear and hunger
how is it possible to hear the rustling of the grass
when its roots have been charred beneath your feet
the eyes of abandoned buildings dark blown out
letters from books thickly scattered like bullets
letters scorched blackened – bones crackle –
who will be able to put them together to form words
time to return sister don't let go of my hand
we will run barefoot over the broken glass incredibly fast
believing in the lindens shedding leaves in these
cold rivers
believing even if obstructed, never giving up

look at the way silver haired ladies wash banners
in the river
carefully cherishing they bathe them like infants

2015



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