



Bronka. An Annotated Russian Reader (Level B1-B2, Intermediate)

Ludmila Ulitskaya

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This annotated edition of "Bronka" introduces students of Russian to a profoundly moving story by Ludmila Ulitskaya, one of Russia's most important contemporary novelists and short story writers. Bronka is a young girl, who, just before World War II, arrives in Moscow with her recently widowed mother, Simka, and the two settle into a communal apartment in a dilapidated apartment house situated in a large courtyard. Spanning the late 1930s to the 1980s, the story focuses on Bronka's early years as a teenager, when she and her mother must cope with unbearably close living quarters, boorish neighbors, and the surrounding dismal realities of urban life in post-war Moscow. While Simka is away working long days as a cleaning woman, Bronka is left largely to her own resources. Emotionally resilient, Bronka manages to escape her nightmarish existence, ultimately finding fulfillment and happiness. But the surprising way she does so is a mystery revealed only at the end of this extraordinary tale. Ulitskaya's elegant prose, and her detailed descriptions of everyday life, makes "Bronka" an excellent literary text for students of Russian language, literature, and culture. This reader is intended for intermediate and advanced students of Russian. It presumes knowledge of basic vocabulary, and a generally good foundation in Russian grammar. That said, several steps have been taken to make this text accessible to as wide an audience as possible: participles and verbal adverbs are marked in the text with an asterisk (*) and are translated in an alphabetized list at the end of the story in the section ?????????? ? ??????????????: marginal glosses contain a generous number of vocabulary words and phrases that may be unfamiliar, or otherwise challenging to the student; footnotes provide translations of difficult sentences, commentaries on unusual grammatical constructions, or on aspects of Russian culture, and, where needed, historical background.

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