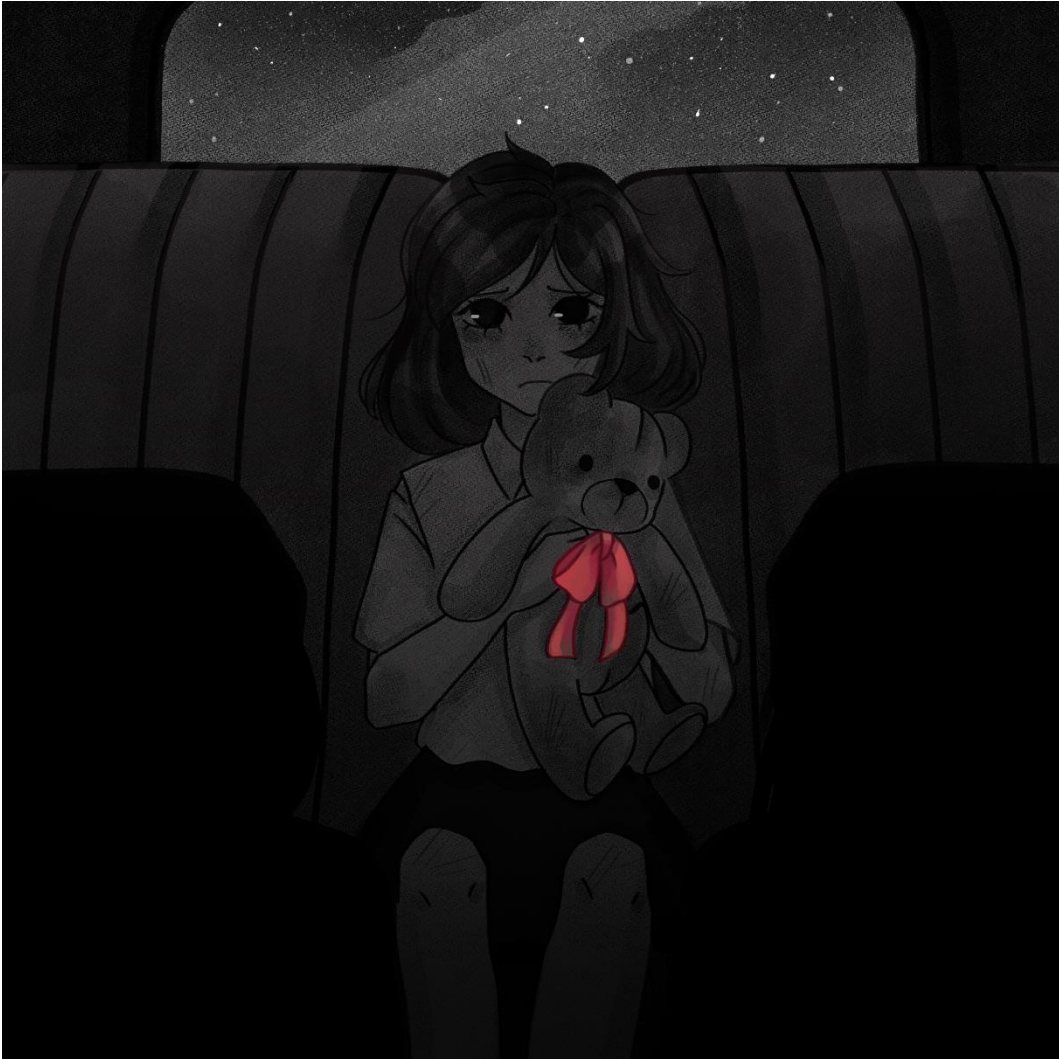


## I Have No Words

A true monologue from events in Ukraine.



*This is Martha's side of our conversation from the end of January through to mid-March. All of her words are as written in her messages, all I have done is tidy some spelling and omitted unrelated dialogue. My messages are not included. So this dialogue should be spoken as if related in a telephone call, or digital messages. I am simply the scribe to her words.*

*Any royalties received will be donated directly to Martha and her family.*

### Cast:

Martha, aged 19 – A budding, talented freelance artist.

### Jan 2022, Lviv.

It's my 19 birthday tomorrow! Wanna find some cute cafe today, Lviv are awesome with this, you need to visit this city if you like awesome coffee and tasty chocolate!

### Feb 2022, Lviv.

I really don't know what's going on now.

Some news says be careful war will starts soon and president says don't worry everything okay, not good situation anyway.

Yes I'm living and think that everything would be great! I talked about it with friends and no one worried about themselves, we all just worried about our parents grandparents and kids, so just lets be positive now!

I'm happy to see how other countries support us at this hard times

Because I really can't understand what's going on

We have an emergency regime now

I was really mad when heard what's Putin said about Ukraine, like we don't have culture and everything in country from Lenin

I don't know how he's still alive and this stupid man call us "brothers" when Russia always killed our people...."we will transport military equipment to your territory to protect you " no one trust you nasty man.

Maybe you saw our president in Munich I was very impressed with what he said!

Putin announces military operation 30 mins ago

Kyiv, Kharkov and Odessa are bombed, news says Putin start war...

my city was attacked 2 times

Seems like bombs focuses on military target but I'm not sure... Some people get messages "go to bomb shelter" and they was there

I even didn't slept because my friend come to visit Odessa for few days

I'm happy that I'm night owl because I bought a ticket to Lviv, now you can't find it, no train no bus no car no taxi

Maybe Russia are big, but they are stupid, we recaptured our city in Lugansk our military was allowed to use force after so many years!

50 Russian soldiers are killed, we waited 8 years to use force, we don't wanna give our country to Russia, they tried to take us hundreds years but that's must stop!

A lot of our people died because of them, people from my school lose fathers and uncles when we was just a kids, so now it's their turn I don't feel anything to them after this.

Ukraine don't like war, we just wanna live and make our country better but they don't understand words

They are everywhere. Even from Belarus

It's close to me... they shoot at civilians!

They want to take our Chernobyl, its danger for all Europe...!

want to blow up radioactive waste!

on Ukraine and Europe

Putin are not a human, not even an animal he will do everything what he want, that's why we wait for help our soldiers doing well

but it's danger for whole Europe

soldiers try to save all Ukrainian territories.

I'm grateful to them so much, but they didn't sleep 3 days

Because I have a lot friends who are there, they said be calm and believe in our army

I know everything very fast, several civilians died in Mariupol, they shot them right into the windows, even photos exist

they took Chernobyl!

our people are in captivity

yes we lose Chernobyl now... no one knows what will be next

we was not ready for this

now all Europe need to do something, if we wanna live safe

it's not only Ukrainian war I think

but we will protect our country how much how we can and we ready to win even if no one  
wanna help

I hope Ukraine will be returned nuclear weapons, because we gave it to Russia, then maybe  
he can calm down.... but he's crazy that's not a secret

but everyone who I know in Ukraine can't eat can't sleep

just wanna live and peace and continue my artist job... sadly that some clients can't  
understand me now

I didn't eat and slept two days but they asked me to finish work now

and I can't say no cuz i need money for donate to army and help family if something  
happen, so time to work...

important for me to share with people whats going on... I'm 19

My 19 year only started!

That's really sad, I don't know what's going on

We were all asked to turn off the lights and not go outside, we are in dark

My friend in the train now I'm so worried about him

we are often attacked from the air I need to leave the city now

I just sit at bathroom more than hour

that's so scary I don't wanna feel it again

I go Parents house. It near to forest and it's not a city. I finally maybe can sleep today, we all  
are very tired and worried.

That's so hard for me leave apartment now

kitty only feels safe

I just don't understand why, why world let this happen

I'm too young for hide don't sleep check news every 5 minutes

I just read them

and they said "hide in Kyiv now"

and then WEWEEEOOWO

hide in Lviv,  
3 siren it's very dangerous situation  
today was 2  
I thought I will die at bathroom  
we did nothing bad... we just wanna be free from Russia....  
I wanna draw, I wanna walk  
I can't do nothing  
my father will come for take me, it's 2 hours on car  
  
in Chernobyl, excess radiation!

I'm in car now  
With some things and cat  
that's so hard to leave your lovely place  
I hope they will not destroy anything  
and I will get back soon  
everything are grey today...

### **February 2022, Turnopil**

*(Martha is now with her family in Turnopil)*

I slept 1.5 hours and that's while my sleep for 3 days, I feel myself more safer now!  
everything would be great, Russia will answer soon for this actions! our army are winning,  
Putin don't know what to say, tries to scare us but it's looks stupid!  
will back to Lviv soon and help other, just some recovery for first!  
Today 3rd day of war started  
it's started with shelling in Kyiv  
they don't want give up but we are too

we want to save our country a lot of people don't wanna leave Ukraine

I really hope that NATO will close sky in Ukraine...

this is main reason why all Ukraine in dangerous

No matter where you are

Everything must be okay!

Just sad that we started it because wanna join (*NATO*) but they don't want have us now,  
because we are fight with Russia

Yes but every hour few our people dies when they wait

Russian soldiers even don't know what they do, they are scared too, and we can't speak  
...time to kill Putin

I fall asleep at 9 am, hope kitty sleep now a little too

we are winning, it all will end soon

they attack west from Belarus, it's started at 4 am

and still now

they are losing and scared try to make panic here

but we are not scared

Putin admitted that they failed the operation in Ukraine and fired the general

very hard day today many siren

Very often Siren

I can't sleep, I didn't sleep 4 day

We need help

They try to scare just a people

We always hide

Always

they are cold

kitty's scared

I'm too tired I just wanna silence

we need more technology, more people, we will kill how we want, but we are tired

I want to sleep and don't be scared of everything

in Ternopil we have sirens all the time

we even don't want to react

I will be grey soon...

too long queue at the cordon (*for Poland*)

and only kids and woman can leave Ukraine

I'm sick and scared

I will try to draw now but I have a terrible tremor for several days

must know what's going on

I still hope that someone will help us with people, our soldiers need some sleep

I don't believe Russian people anymore, I don't believe in them

they will see a police and go home, like always they always scared

Some Russians told me today: "if we had a war, you would not come to the rally for us, then why we need?" or "war in Ukraine, not here, I don't wanna talk about this"

I just wanna see smile on my face not tears

I'm sorry that I stopped my work now

I really hope that no one will stop working with because that's so hard for me draw now...

I can't not work, I need money and pay for apartment in Lviv or another people will live in my apartment

cuz it's impossible find an apartment in west Ukraine now don't need to lose  
calm down and work Martha shhh

shh...

only I don't know how to stop the tremor  
and I have a high fever, probably because I didn't sleep 4 days  
need to listen calm music

We have a lot of great news I'm okay  
Need to eat something finally  
I feel okay now we are winning again wait for news you will see shame of Russia

another hard night  
I finally sleep well today

just don't wanna open news

Belarus wanna go to us too  
But they all will be dead  
The best way for them it's stop  
Putin does not get in touch, hiding in the Urals in a bunker! waiting when he will kill himself!  
today there will be talks with Belarus  
they will stop it from Belarus when talks will be  
we need to know Belarus support us or our new enemies  
Belarus people never had war with us and don't want to  
Putin threatens countries with nuclear weapons  
cuz they help us  
this man wanna destroy more and more life's



Moscow itself initiated the talks

they are gradually retreating

Russian prisoners are crying and saying that they were told that the Nazis are here, other Russian soldiers pour gasoline to avoid death here, our soldiers try to calm prisoners they even give them cigarette when talking with them.

we don't wanna kill young people we don't want war

but Russia don't try to take them back.

a lot of dead Russian body here

18-30 year old men

no one cares!

that says a lot about Russia

i wanna back home and work again

It's hard to work now when you wanna check news every 3 mins

my kitty just hide and can't eat

we just all worried now

I'm a lot too emotional

I always crying when hear siren

I hear it all the time in my ears

like a lot of people

and sometimes you can't understand it's your mind or real

war it's scary, hope it all will stop

Please, everything must end soon I'm too emotional for everything

Russia and Ukraine start talk now

I am very worried about nuclear weapons

hope he not that crazy like his people

now all world need to do something in dangerous for all

but it's a Putin, I read that he want destroy USA more than us  
world must destroy nuclear weapon.

it's too dangerous for everyone

Russia take it from Ukraine and said that we will not touch you, but now wanna destroy us  
our life shouldn't depend on a fucking psychopath

I can tell you how awesome our people are!

gypsies stole tanks from Russia soldiers, a man carried a mine in his hands from the bridge  
to throw into the woods!!!! can you imagine?

I have no words!!!

with cigarettes in mouth, just with hands

women ran with axes after the Russian soldier who was beaten by ours! and I don't know  
alive he or not

on (*road*) signs about the area writes "go fuck yourself"

I'm really impressed

how brave are people here, no words here

no one will think that Ukraine is part of Russia.. Cuz it always was problem, when I told I'm  
from Ukraine foreign people always ask "it's somewhere in Russia?"

### **March 2022 Turnopil.**

we are safe (*in*) my city

I cant check news too hard

mom said that I'm too worried need continue life

I'm trying... wanna back home... so much...

still losing clients cuz can't work

I don't know what I must do when it all will end

hope it all close to the end  
I even don't see tomorrow  
but still believe in our victory  
I'm very sick  
worried about Ukraine and did we all be alive tomorrow everyday

My younger brother, I'm happy that he didn't understand anything  
and just playing games and being happy  
I'm the oldest child in the whole family... all other cousins and etc are not older than 14....  
I'm worried about them too...  
I tried to work but I'm sick now, with high temperature, 39 degrees now and can't speak  
I think I'm sick because of stress

today Russia and Ukraine will talk again

I don't have plans for future I'm just waiting when everything will be ok...  
if someone will come to my city I will fight too  
I'm tired of them

they killed 2k civilians  
that's more than our army lose soldiers  
more than 40 children...what they do wrong?...  
did you see that they shot in the ravine?...they once again killed the victims of the  
Holocaust.. Putin more horrible than Hitler and he's hiding now

a lot of my friends in Kyiv now..  
it must end soon  
they all must be punished  
a lot of Russian people horrible for me

they text in internet how they happy to be safe and eating tasty food when we are hiding...  
that's even not a people for me...

I just hope everything will be ok internet today more bad then was yesterday but I hope I  
will not lose connection it's very important now

negotiations started

I'm not sure that that's can give anything but I hope...

Two times they use bombs when they talk... I don't have words...

I'm very grateful that I wake up alive

I thought it's my end today few time

they threatened the whole world

I don't know if I don't see tomorrow...I must be more strong

I wanna be safe I'm panic too much but I can't leave my boyfriend here

yes but Russia are crazy

who knows what they will do today?

will I wake up? I don't know

at night we all was in big big danger

that's why I'm not calm anymore

war are already started

we just try to stop it in Ukraine

if something will go wrong Europe next

NATO told us today that we will lose more people soon but they will not close the sky

I was so scared even when I heard about war

but now I live in it

and don't know will I wake up or not

I'm just waiting when all my tears will end

I wanna be empty

kitty just sleep all the time, if she not in panic that's give me hope that everything will be ok,  
cuz animals can feel when something go wrong

everything must be okay, justice exists, that's why Russia never win

they can't win if everyone ask them to stop

if they will come here I will fight too

that's my Ukraine

no Russia here

we will build new Ukraine more beautiful...

Everything will be ok one my friend from Kyiv in Lviv now, Another in train

I have my grandma apartment he can wait his family here

Hope they will be ok too there his mother and younger sister

I just will drink melatonin soon and hope I will sleep and wake up when sun outside

Everything very close the end!

I'm sure people from other countries will help us after this too

just don't have powers for it all

my kitty feels not really good I think she miss home

hope spring and summer will come soon with sun and when everything okay

I have a boyfriend here and maybe that's only one reason why I stay in Ukraine now and  
don't go to another country just for wait when it all ends...

men from 18 year old to 60 can't leave country now

thinking about go to Lviv after week

if everything will be like now or better

anyway Lviv very close to Europe... I think they will not touch west of Ukraine

I had a wonderful dream where I walked in a field of flowers with my cat

it was so lovely but then I wake up again  
I don't know how to sleep all the time  
wanna skip this part of life  
I don't know when it all can finish, maybe after few months  
but I hope it's really few days left  
support its great I know that everyone will help after all this will finish  
I just want peace

I'm feeling more ok now will back to Lviv soon and back to work

today was first day without siren!

I'm so happy

my violin also in Lviv too hehe

I want play violin, but I will be here, seems like everything must be better and better

I was at music school 8 years, I even can't remember what I played but when war will ends, I will buy notes and play for whole world again!! and draw a lot of pictures

time to remember how to draw hehe

hope sirens will be rare thing here and I can just wait for our win

news really can destroy psychic a lot if you don't know how war works and check it every 2 mins

because i don't know how war works. I'm 19

but I know that everyone understand who will be winner

I live in old house in Lviv! I have 1.5m walls in width!

old houses must be very strong and safe so I hope after 2-3 days I'll be at my home

West Ukraine was not a lot of time with Russia that's why we have a lot of houses from Austria, Poland and etc. They are safe and strong

I'm so happy to see all this support I'm sure our soldiers and people grateful to everyone too!

I'm happy that other countries can see now that we are not only little country

I think it's safe just my family will be without me and I can worry too much like always

Lviv close to Poland if something will go wrong, I will go to Poland and then to another country

I understand that it can be weeks of war but what we can do...

War can't finish at few days and that's really sad that I don't know when I'll see normal life again

so soon time to back home and try to live normal life...

I'm trying to draw whole day

thought about go home at 9 march

but father told me wait until 10 march

seems like he worried more then all of us just don't show

when it all ends I'll be the happiest person on the planet

Lviv 2 days without sirens, in my city one was today

have one friend who stays in Kyiv and will not leave, he said Kyiv are much more okay then Kharkiv

Poor Kharkiv....

just wake up, need to continue my work! hope today day will be good

I finally open my window today can see the sun

life must continue we need to help each other

I saw how much people come from other countries to help our army that so touching world understands how important any support for us now

I'm not scared as I was first days, so I just know that we will win, just need time

trying back to work, drawing makes me calm

wanna back to Lviv can't find car

for me it's even safe

friend from Kyiv told me that he hear sirens every 10 mins

all Ukrainian will have big trigger for this sound

and they can play few mins, and then silence, and again when it's ends

I'll go to Lviv tomorrow morning

Lviv are okay! a lot of people just go from Lviv to other countries because it's close to Poland and there a lot of people from other countries that's why we think they will not touch Lviv

I live in Lviv 2 years this city in my heart, like whole Ukraine

can't wait when Putin will be dead

a lot who I knew are in other countries now and I don't know when they will back

I hate Putin he ruins our life's

no one will forgive Russian people here

never

I don't trust any Russian word

they say we make chemical weapons, but they make them.... just a monsters

a lot of my Russian friends told me just "that's sad don't wanna talk about this"

I don't have Russian friends anymore

Putin still don't change anything, he will stop war only if we will give him some part of Ukraine and don't go to Europe

oh and if we will be without army... that's stupid, we can't be without army if our neighbor is Russia, you can't just go to another country and be mad because they make their life better?? why he still alive??

everyone deserves life in peace

people build houses of their dream, create a family and he just come and destroy it

ok if he doesn't care about Ukrainian people, but what about Russian?, he destroys their life's too, dead economy and a lot of men dies here

how much time we need wait? when someone from his friends will kill him?

he just destroy our country

I can't imagine how much pain people from there feels, we thought what we will do at spring but now a lot of people think how to wake up alive

I can't understand why he is nothing without them

if a lot of people from Russia will say go away, he will

he can't do what he want just cuz he's president, he scared of his people!



would you believe me if I told you that I'm very tired of all this  
I still can't understand how someone can destroy lives so easily  
I really hope that it all must end soon and we can build new, much more better Ukraine  
I even don't wanna imagine how I need to leave my father and boyfriend here and go to  
another country with kitty and family  
some time and I'll be ready to fight too  
they all makes me mad because they touch my country  
can you imagine how mad our army now? when they shoot at women and kids  
they know for what they are fighting  
I just can't imagine, how you can being a man and killing women and kids?? just how??  
that's not a men!  
I thought doesn't matter what nationality are you, the weak need to be protected....  
and army need to fight with army not with civilians  
they mined green corridors...Russia it's the baddest country in the world  
even green corridors doesn't safe it's very hard to help people  
Mom told me don't go to Lviv  
Boyfriend told me it will be very long war  
I don't what to do  
I wake up cuz of sirens  
  
Lviv are not in trouble but I don't like what happen today, two cities near me was attacked  
  
I cant told you how I'm mad  
send some bombs to your Moscow stupid Pootin  
I don't know, maybe we all need to destroy Russia and then world can leave in peace  
I'm so mad, Belarus talking about their army here again!!!!  
Russians fired on Belarus to say that we did it uhhhhh  
he tried one time but then told that no, Belarus people must be safe we don't wanna kill our  
neighbors

and now again

they are close to west Ukraine

I hate this situation so much I don't wanna leave my country

3 sirens today...and it's not end of the day, my psychic are dead

I'm still with my parents

government said they did this for scared us

for showing that no one place are safe

when I sleep was 3 sirens.

**End**

**Note:** *Martha stayed in Ternopil until mid-April, then returned to a different apartment in Lviv. She continued to work there until September, when she returned to live with her parents in Turnopil for her own safety and health. At the time of writing (Dec 2022) she was struggling to work due to intermittent power and internet, but has food and warmth from wood fires her farther provides.*