

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

Author

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Illustrator

Illustrated by Grasya Olyko

Reviewer

Isbell, Melinda

Pages

Unpaged

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ISBN

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Publisher & Date

Quill Tree Books, 2023

Classification

Nonfiction (947.7 or biography)

Grade Level

PreK-3

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Book Review: BRAVE VOLODYMYR: THE STORY OF VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY AND THE FIGHT FOR UKRAINE

This book chronicles the life of Volodymyr Zelensky, the actor/comedian who became President of Ukraine. President Zelensky was born into a Jewish family that lived in Kryvyi Rih, an industrial city in Ukraine. Throughout the book, the storyline openly discusses what life was like in Ukraine when it was under the control of the Soviet Union followed by Russia's continued control after the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.

The author does a fantastic job communicating the struggle of the Ukrainian people, including the impact of the current war with Russia. The illustrations bring amazing context to the narrative. The only issue with the book is that it states that it is for children between the ages of 4 and 8 years old. The content is very advanced for a child as young as 4. The author mentions the European Union, how governments and countries interact with each other, and how power transitions in government. While too advanced for younger readers, this book would be an amazing supplemental read for an upper-elementary social studies class. I highly recommend this book for any public, school, or home library.

