

<Description: Notebook in man's handwriting. Between pages the owner put polaroids, the first one showing him and a young boy carrying a big fish they must've caught in a proud manner, then some family pictures, his wife. The final pages are almost indecipherably stained by what looks like dried up blood>

10/12 – My wife Lidiya keeps telling me I should start a diary or something. I don't see the point, why write down memories? I won't start forgetting stuff all of a sudden! But she says some day little Luka would enjoy reading them. Luka, if you're actually reading this years from now, I hope I wrote something better. And call your mother every once in a while, will ya? Just kidding, I'm sure you'll be a good boy...

10/22 – I have to force myself to write something down again. There's either nothing going on or I just forget writing it down. Sorry, son, hope it gets a little more interesting. We went hunting though, showed Luka how to track deer. He didn't want me to shoot the one we found. There's always next time, maybe he's still a little young for it.

10/28 – Took Luka for a fishing trip because of the holiday. We actually caught a big one! I think I'll leave the polaroid in here, too. We saw a few helicopters fly along the coast. I haven't seen any other drills lately. Didn't they cut their funding or something?

11/02 – Work has become rough lately. Many are complaining we don't get paid enough for our work. They even had to bring Nikolai to the hospital because he got so worked up about it. I hope he gets better soon. Tonight is teacher's conference at Luka's school. I hope you were a good boy, Luka?

11/05 – Nikolai hasn't returned to work yet. I even went by the hospital, but some security guard sent me away when I asked for Nikolai Kenin. Luka wants me to show him how to use the hunting rifle, but I told him he's too young.

11/10 – Still no sign of Nikolai. A few colleagues went to the police station, but they won't tell us anything. I saw those helicopters again, today. They're having field exercises or something over near Chernogorsk, Lidiya says. A few kids in school got the flu or something, hopefully Luka doesn't catch it. The boy shouldn't miss school, I don't want him to end up a steel worker like his old man.

11/12 – Luka says the sick kids from school were brought away to some fancy hospital somewhere. Their parents don't even know where it is, that's scary. What's this place turning into? We see more and more soldiers every day.

11/14 – Okay, there's definitely something going down soon. The other workers at the plant say the military's trying to take over the government or something like that. We've been told to stay

indoors at night. What do they think we'll do? There's been no news about Nikolai or the kids from school. I hope they're doing alright.

Luka found a dead rabbit near the dam. I told him not to go there!

11/17 – This is somehow turning from a diary to a documentary. Luka, if you read this in the future, I hope things will make more sense by then! A convoy came around yesterday and pretty much kidnapped our neighbors. My coworkers say there's going to be a real curfew anyway now. Are we at war or something?

11/22 – Luka has been home all week. School's closed because of more kids catching the flu. There was a story about it on the news yesterday, but the power went down before they could tell us anything we didn't know yet.

11/23 – Tonight, I met up with a friend of mine, Anatoli, who's been enlisted. He says they don't even know what's going on. Says it smells like disease control to him. Apparently, for the last couple of days there's been more kidnappings, and there were rumours about people dieing. I told Luka not to go too far from the house. He's slowly picking up on the general atmosphere, too.

11/25 – The tv's been out and the helicopters flying all day. My family's scared to go outside. School's been cancelled and nobody's going to work anymore. Many other families are becoming more secluded, too, sticking to themselves.

11/27 – Anatoli came by today. He says there's been cases of sick people in the army now, too. He doesn't want to tell me a lot, but we suspect the worst. He brought us some supplies and those face masks that are supposed to help against an airborne virus or something. Says we should wear them when we go outside the house. TV hasn't come back on. Our neighbors left in a hurry last night, so I went over to check theirs. Nothing.

11/28 – I went to the supermarket today, there was next to nothing left. More and more people are leaving, packing all their stuff into their cars and heading inland. I think it's safer around here, with the military protecting us and all. Luka says a friend of his told him about mass graves. He's probably exaggerating, but who knows.

11/30 – Lidiya has me worried sick. She started having a cough this morning. It's nothing, but with the anxiety around this place, who knows what they'll do to her just to be sure. Luka and I caught some fish today, so we don't use up more groceries. We don't know when the supermarket's getting restocked, so we better not be wasting any food.

12/1 – Lidiya is getting worse. She has developed a fever, and I'm too scared to go to the doctor for some medicine, they might suspect something and take her away. Soldiers have been searching houses lately, so I better hide this notebook somewhere, just in case. I'll have to go looking for some medicine in one of the abandoned houses down the street tonight, curfew or

not.

12/3 – They've taken her away! I don't know HOW they found out! They came by this morning and picked her up, even held a gun in my face like I was a terrorist! They went east, away from the hospital. What are they gonna do to her? Luka's been crying all day, and I don't even know what to do without her...

12/4 – I spoke to Anatoli. He says my wife's probably up north, at Berezino or so. Says they have some medical treatment place going on there, so maybe she's gonna be alright after all! I hope I can drive up there and see her tomorrow. Luka ran outside without telling me, I was worried sick, but he came back okay and with some supplies he found.

12/7 – I can't believe this! I tried driving up to Berezino. Half the houses are abandoned now! There's military checkpoints every few hundred meters. I thought of bringing my hunting rifle, but they probably would've found and taken it away between the five times my car was searched! Roadblocks everywhere, even crashed cars, some of them ran straight into other people's houses. What on earth is going on? I couldn't even get all the way to Berezino, soldiers had closed the road. I turned around, and headed west as soon as I was out of sight. I parked the car and tried getting there on foot. Saw some soldiers patrolling the streets, so I went up to that mountain northeast of Polana, from where I'd see all the way over to Berezino. I didn't see any civilians on the way. Berezino's heavily guarded, though, there's helicopters circling above it all the time.

I saw a few people walking up to the place, trying to get in. The soldiers were shouting at them, couldn't hear what they said though. Those civilians just started sprinting towards the roadblock... and the soldiers fired! It was over before the sound of their guns reached my ears. They had executed those poor people for wanting to see their relatives! I had to go back to my son...

12/9 – This place is turning into a ghost town, literally! There's almost nobody left living here, and it gets all weird and spooky all night, like we hear noises that aren't there. I locked the door just in case. Good thing I did, too! Against the moonlight, I could see people walking past the windows, not sure if they were looking inside or not. I'll barricade them tomorrow!

12/10 – I must've eaten something bad, my stomach's been weird all day. We put furniture and stuff against the windows like I said. I'm not even leaving the house anymore without the rifle! I've seen more homeless today, strolling around sorta randomly. I don't know what I'd do if one of them tried to steal our food or something like that...

12/11 – I had to kill someone today!! I was out hunting, at the deer stand north of here, when I saw a boar. I shot it, but when I walked up to it, someone came running through the forest towards me! I panicked, even shouted at him to stop, but he didn't seem to hear me. I tried to run away but ran straight past some hawthorn bush and cut myself. I turned around, he was but a few meters away. In my panic, I shot him, and ran away...

12/12 – I think I'm getting worse... I have to find some medicine soon, starting to feel feverish. I told Luka not to get too close to me and showed him how to use the rifle. You know, just in case. But I'm sure I'll be fine.