

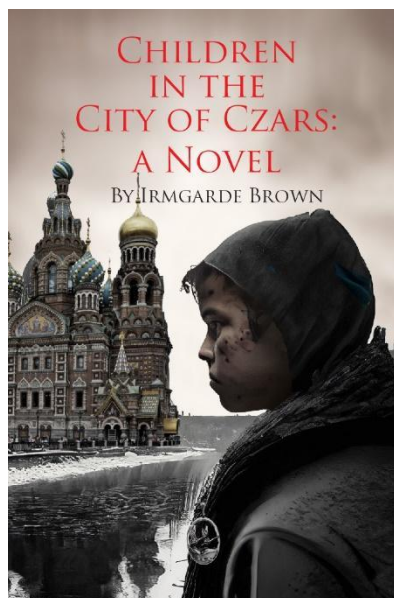
This general fiction novel has strong coming-of-age and family life themes. Aimed for adults and older YAs.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Orphaned in 2000, the Lebedev siblings are alone in the underbelly of the most beautiful city in the world, St. Petersburg. Fedya is nearly thirteen and tries his best to keep them together but fails. He surrenders his two sisters to the orphanage system and joins a ring of thieves. It's not long before the gang has a run-in with the Russian mafia and Fedya becomes the focal point of a madman's revenge, and a race across Russia into Latvia. His sister, Elena, is brutally bullied at the orphanage and almost loses her life, while their youngest sister, Irina, is illegally adopted out of the country. How will they ever reunite? Will the three swans fly together again? Whom can they trust? Possibly, no one.

An early review from Francine Markowitz, PhD., author of "Coming of Age in Post-Soviet Russia"

Irmgarde Brown's **Children in the City of Czars** brings readers into the turbulent lives of three orphaned siblings in the barely navigable, cynically cruel world of 1990s St. Petersburg following the unexpectedly disruptive break-up of the Soviet Union...not for the faint-hearted. ...three complex and moving tales that come together at the book's end but without resolving the protagonists' fates. Readers will want a sequel to this compelling story that offers deep insight into contemporary Russian children's experiences of violent dislocation coupled with their desire for family and love.



**Children in the City of Czars: A Novel
by Irmgarde Brown**

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Irmgarde Brown is a retired librarian/manager, a long-time blogger, a photographer, a playwright and director, an active volunteer in the Havre de Grace arts community, a friend to the Village of Hope, Zambia, a student in the Living School for Action and Contemplation, and a newly branded Episcopalian after forty years in the non-denominational church. She is a widow, the mother of three adoptees from Eastern Europe (now grown), and a grandmother of two.

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