



## Sonechka: A Novella and Stories

By Ludmila Ulitskaya

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*The Los Angeles Times* said of Ludmila Ulitskaya's *The Funeral Party*, "In America we have friends, family, lovers, and parents—four kinds of love. Could it really be that in Russia they have more? Ludmila Ulitskaya makes it seem so." In *Sonechka: A Novella and Stories*, Ulitskaya brings us tales of these other loves in her richly lyrical prose, populated with captivating and unusual characters.

In "Queen of Spades," Anna, a successful ophthalmologic surgeon in her sixties; her daughter, Katya; and Katya's teenage daughter and young son live in constant terror of Anna's mother, a domineering, autocratic, aging former beauty queen. In "Angel," a closeted middle-aged professor marries an uneducated charwoman for love of her young son, raising the child in his image. In "The Orlov-Sokolovs," perfectly matched young lovers are pulled apart by the Soviet academic bureaucracy. And in the stunning novella "Sonechka," the heroine, a bookworm turned muse turned mother, reveals a love and loyalty at once astounding in its generosity and grotesque in its pathos.

In these stories, love and life are lived under the radar of oppression, in want of material comfort, in obeisance to or matter-of-fact rejection of the pervasive restrictions of Soviet rule. If living well is the best revenge, then Ludmila Ulitskaya's characters, in choosing to embrace the unique gifts that their lives bring them, are small heroes of the quotidian, their stories as funny and tender as they are brilliantly told.

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## Sonechka: A Novella and Stories By Ludmila Ulitskaya Bibliography

- Rank: #568400 in Books
- Published on: 2005-05-03
- Released on: 2005-05-03
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.73" h x .98" w x 8.52" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 256 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“From one of the most important living Russian writers comes a collection of storytelling miracles. The Russian women in Ludmila Ulitskaya’s stories are unlike any you have met before. They are charming, intelligent, seductive, and strong enough to carry an entire dysfunctional country on their backs.”

–Gary Shteyngart, author of  
*The Russian Debutante’s Handbook*

#### About the Author

**Ludmila Ulitskaya** was born in Bashkiria, in the Ural region, and was trained as a geneticist. Her novels and short stories have been published in more than twenty-five languages. She has received many awards for her writing, including the first Russian Booker Prize and the Medici Prize. She lives in Moscow.

### Users Review

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book that recommended for you is Sonechka: A Novella and Stories this reserve consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how do the world has grown up. The words styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some investigation when he makes this book. That's why this book suitable all of you.

**Irma Lovern:**

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