



## The Ukrainian Refugees

Miranda Connolly, Senior  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A Million refugees have fled Ukraine since Russia began sieging major Ukrainian cities. Most refugees are headed towards the countries of Moldova, Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary. Within Ukraine itself fighting goes on, and many have called for a cease fire so that humanitarian assistance can begin.

Many citizens of Ukraine have been trapped inside of their houses by the Russian military, and have only recently been allowed to go out to find food. Citizens reported that there are Russian snipers on rooftops and that city halls have fallen under the control of the Russian soldiers.

Many countries in Europe and around the world have placed heavy sanctions on Russia as a result of the country's human rights violations. At the United Nations General Assembly, 141 countries voted for Russia to end violence with Ukraine. Five countries, Russia, Belarus, Syria, Eritrea, and North Korea, did not vote for Russia to end its violence against Ukraine.

The seige of Kyiv is tragic. The Russian invasion of Ukraine started eight years ago, and now it seems to be reaching its boiling point. The amount of European countries that have pledged to accept Ukrainian refugees is inspiring. However, when there were Syrian refugees in 2011 attempting to enter Europe, the same enthusiasm was not shared.

I hope that humanitarian aid arrives in Ukraine and that the Citizens who are trapped by the Russian Military are able to either escape to safety or get the resources they need to survive. There are many fundraisers that have been started to help Ukrainian citizens, and online there is discourse over whether

or not people should donate to the Ukrainian military (it seemed the majority opinion was not to). The Red Cross has started donation campaigns for Ukraine, and many people have begun promoting them.

The European Union has also fast tracked Ukraine's application to join them. Although Russia prevented Ukraine from joining NATO, hopefully Ukraine will be able to successfully become a member of the European Union and receive the protection of the other European Union countries. It seems that the events between Ukraine and Russia have solidified the European Union (and more countries within Europe and internationally) as allies. The global response to the invasion was astonishing and I do not think I have ever seen so many countries united under one cause before in my lifetime. It is unfortunate that the cause that united them is a war between two countries. I hope that this reuniting encourages countries to work together on other social issues like climate change. These countries should also use their powers together to stop other countries that are currently violating human rights.

The people in Ukraine are in need of help, and the country's leaders have stepped up to fight for their people. The rest of the world is watching Ukraine. It seems that the invasion is not going as Russia had planned, and if more countries can help Ukraine with humanitarian support and place more sanctions on Russia, maybe the invasion will end, and with it the war Russia started with Ukraine.

Source: Jerome Socolovsky and Jonathan Franklin, *A Million People Have Fled Ukraine as Russia Nears Takeover of Port City*, npr.org, 3/03/2022



## Inventing Anna Show Review

Katie Jenkins, Junior

On February 11, 2022, Netflix released its new show *Inventing Anna* to its viewers. Within the next two weeks, it reached number one on Nielson's top 10 streaming rankings, according to Variety. The show hit 3.3 billion minutes viewed during the week of the 14th and the 20th of February, tripling its minutes during its first week.

The show follows reporter Vivian Kent and Anna Delvey née Sorokin, as Vivian pieces together Anna's life leading up to her arrest and trial. Vivian is working on an article about Anna, an article she sees as her last opportunity to "fix her career" after an incident involving bad journalistic practices. At the beginning of each episode, a disclaimer is given: "This story is completely true. Except for all the parts that are totally made up." What is true? Anna Sorokin dropped her real last name, instead choosing to go by "Anna Delvey," claiming that Delvey was based on her mother's maiden name. She was arrested and sentenced to twelve years in prison in 2019. What parts of the show did not happen? As the disclaimer points out, there were definitely some liberties taken with the show. As is true for most shows based on real events, many of the names are changed in order to protect the identities of many of the characters' real life counterparts, and many events were exaggerated or didn't happen. Vivian Kent was made up, based on the real reporter Jessica Pressler. Kent, while trying to discover more about Anna, assists Anna's legal defense, and even goes so far as to follow Anna's father into his private home in order to learn about her childhood.

Pressler never did any of this. It was Anna who helped plan the Germany trip, and the family knew of Pressler's plans before she arrived. Pressler was also not pregnant, a part of the story that plays a large role in establishing Vivian's character and creating the sense of urgency around the article.

Overall, I found the show very entertaining and began re-watching it only a day or two after initially finishing it. The plot was interesting, and I personally loved the casting choices of Julia Gardner as Anna Delvey and Anna Chlumsky as Vivian Kent. Some scenes and episodes can be rather heavy, but mostly you can't help but laugh at Anna's audacious behavior, scamming so many people, including large companies and close friends. While the show exaggerates some of the events, Anna's behavior is a fairly realistic example of how she and other fraudsters behave in real life.



## "Afrique Victime" Album Review

Benjamin Burns, Sophomore



I am reviewing "Afrique Victime" by Mdou Moctar. The group consists of drummer Souleymane Ibrahaim, rhythm guitarist Ahmoudou Madassane, bassist Mikey Coulton, and lead guitarist Mdou Moctar, who the group is named after. This album in particular was released on May 21, 2021 and a deluxe version was released just recently. The album consists of 9 songs that last for 41 minutes and 23 seconds.

The album was enjoyable throughout; I don't think there is a low point in the entire record. I think my favorite part of the album would be "Ya Habibti," as I really enjoy the guitar pattern that continues throughout the whole song. Although one of the songs is in French, most of the album is in Tamasheq, one of the languages of the Tuareg people.

Something to note about this album is the different details that came into play with these four musicians coming together.

Mdou's family was opposed to music, and he taught himself how to play guitar with a guitar he built out of wood. Their bass player Mikey flies in from Brooklyn and takes a train to where Mdou and the rest of the band live, which totals out to a 38 hour trip. The band originally spread their music through people trading phone memory cards with their music on it. This eventually led to them getting a record deal with Matador records, who released this album. If you are a fan of any kind of rock, I would absolutely recommend this album.



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