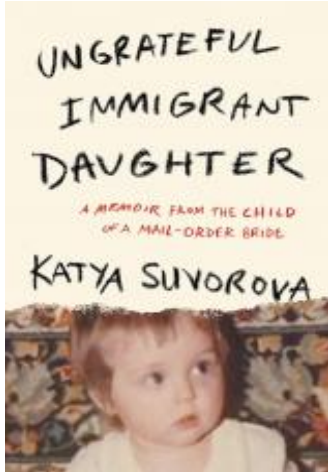

Ungrateful Immigrant Daughter: A Memoir from the Child of a Mail-Order Bride

by Katya Suvorova



About the Book

In this darkly funny and irreverent memoir, the daughter of a mail-order bride unpacks her undocumented childhood in America.

The perfect read for fans of the jaw-dropping twists of "90 Day Fiancé" and the emotional gut punch of I'M GLAD MY MOM DIED.

Growing up undocumented in Houston, Texas, Katya Suvorova learned that keeping her family together meant dodging the police, enduring her mother's many husbands, and babysitting her younger sister instead of finishing the third grade.

Her understanding of her life shifted dramatically at 17, when Katya discovered her mother's advertisement in a forgotten Eastern European mail-order bride catalog from the 1990s. As she grew older, Katya came to better understand what her mother had risked when she smuggled herself and her then-three-year-old daughter from Russia into the US.

When your parents sacrifice their lives so yours can be better, to whom do you owe your future?

UNGRATEFUL IMMIGRANT DAUGHTER explores difficult questions and stories both shocking and hilarious across Katya's childhood through to an adulthood estranged from the woman who sacrificed everything for her. Her sharp, dry wit engages readers in a deeply relatable take on the experience of being a child of immigrants and unraveling a landscape of family secrets and lies, sharing her unique story of being the undocumented daughter of a mail-order bride.

Discussion Guide

1. Throughout the book, Katya has a few different men that her mom asks her to call "Dad." How does her relationship

differ with these men and her birth father, Ivan?

2. How does Katya's understanding of her father, Ivan, change over time, and how does her relationship with Ivan change as she uncovers the truth about her mother and why she had to leave Russia?

3. What does Katya's relationship with Babushka mean to her over the course of her life? How does her relationship with Babushka differ from Masha's relationship with Babushka? Why do you think their relationships are different?

4. Why does Katya go from calling her mother "Mama" to calling her "mom"? What do you think this represents?

5. Katya's relationship with one of her "dads," Chris, becomes more and more complicated throughout the book. At one point, Katya and her mother separate from Chris. When this happens, Katya says, "I miss Dad, too. But I know I shouldn't. I'm not even supposed to call him 'Dad' anymore. I try not to think about it." Why do you think Katya feels this guilt about her relationship with Chris?

6. How does Katya become a mother figure to her sister, Masha? Where and how does Katya fill in where her mother falls flat or doesn't show up at all?

7. How did Katya's mother lie to her over the course of her adolescence, and how did it shape how Katya views herself and her self-worth?

8. When does Katya begin to realize that her mother is not being entirely truthful about who she is, how they've made it in the United States, and their past? Why do you think her mother wasn't truthful with Katya all along, despite abuse happening right in front of her eyes?

9. How does Katya growing up in the United States impact Katya's understanding of her Russian roots, identity and language?

10. How does Katya's "normal" growing up differ from your "normal" growing up? Discuss.

11. In the chapter titled "Confession," Katya shares with her mother and Adam about what happened between her and Chris, and she is told not to speak about it. How do Katya's parents' reactions parallel how people have reacted to information about the Epstein files, and about believing victims of sexual assault and abuse?

12. How does Katya's relationship with her parents and her family growing up differ from your parents and your family growing up? Discuss.

13. How does Katya's unstable childhood impact her ability to make and maintain friends? How does it impact her performance in school?

14. Why do you think Katya was afraid to tell her birth father about her experience with Chris?

15. Katya's mother puts a lot of pressure on Katya to lie, keep the peace, and take care of Masha from a very young age. How are these unrealistic expectations to put on a child? Do you think that Katya's mother could have handled raising Katya differently with what she had access to/was given in the United States?

16. How did Katya cope in an external sense with her difficult childhood? How did she cope in an internal sense?

17. Do you think Katya's mother made the right choice or the wrong choice when she abducted her and brought her to America? Why or why not?

18. In Katya's acknowledgements, Katya thanks her mother for bringing her to the United States. What do you make of Katya's acknowledgement to her mother? If you were in Katya's shoes, would you feel differently?

Author Bio

Raised as an undocumented Russian immigrant in Texas, Katya Suvorova is now a US citizen writing from abroad. Her work is powered by strong coffee courtesy of her husband's amateur barista phase, a cat so unruly she once earned a spot on the no-fly list, and a three-legged dog who moves through the world like she has five legs and no regrets. *UNGRATEFUL IMMIGRANT DAUGHTER* is her debut memoir.

Ungrateful Immigrant Daughter: A Memoir from the Child of a Mail-Order Bride

by Katya Suvorova

Publication Date: September 29, 2026

Genres: Memoir, Nonfiction

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Alcove Press

ISBN-10: N/A

ISBN-13: 9798892426855