

Contents

We Lived Happily during the War / 3

Deaf Republic / 5

Dramatis Personae / 7

ACT ONE: THE TOWNSPEOPLE TELL THE STORY OF SONYA AND ALFONSO

Gunshot / 11

As Soldiers March, Alfonso Covers the Boy's Face with a Newspaper / 12

Alfonso, in Snow / 13

Deafness, an Insurgency, Begins / 14

Alfonso Stands Answerable / 15

That Map of Bone and Opened Valves / 16

The Townspeople Circle the Boy's Body / 17

Of Weddings before the War / 18

Still Newlyweds / 19

Soldiers Aim at Us / 20

Checkpoints / 22

Before the War, We Made a Child / 23

As Soldiers Choke the Stairwell / 24

4 a.m. Bombardment / 25

Arrival / 26

Lullaby / 27

Question / 28

While the Child Sleeps, Sonya Undresses / 29

A Cigarette / 30

A Dog Sniffs / 31

What We Cannot Hear / 32
Central Square / 33
A Widower / 34
For His Wife / 35
I, This Body / 36
Her Dresses / 37
Elegy / 38
Above Blue Tin Roofs, Deafness / 39
A City Like a Guillotine Shivers on Its Way to the Neck / 40
In the Bright Sleeve of the Sky / 41
To Live / 42
The Townspeople Watch Them Take Alfonso / 43
Away / 44
Eulogy / 45
Question / 46
Such Is the Story Made of Stubbornness and a Little Air / 47

ACT TWO: THE TOWNSPEOPLE TELL THE STORY OF MOMMA GALYA

Townspeople Speak of Galya on Her Green Bicycle / 51
When Momma Galya First Protested / 52
A Bundle of Laundry / 53
What Are Days / 54
Galya Whispers, as Anushka Nuzzles / 55
Galya's Puppeteers / 56
In Bombardment, Galya / 57
The Little Bundles / 58
Galya's Toast / 59
Theater Nights / 60
And While Puppeteers Are Arrested / 61
Soldiers Don't Like Looking Foolish / 62
Search Patrols / 63
Lullaby / 64
Firing Squad / 65

Question / 66

Yet, I Am / 67

The Trial / 68

Pursued by the Men of Vasenka / 69

Anonymous / 70

And Yet, on Some Nights / 71

In a Time of Peace / 75