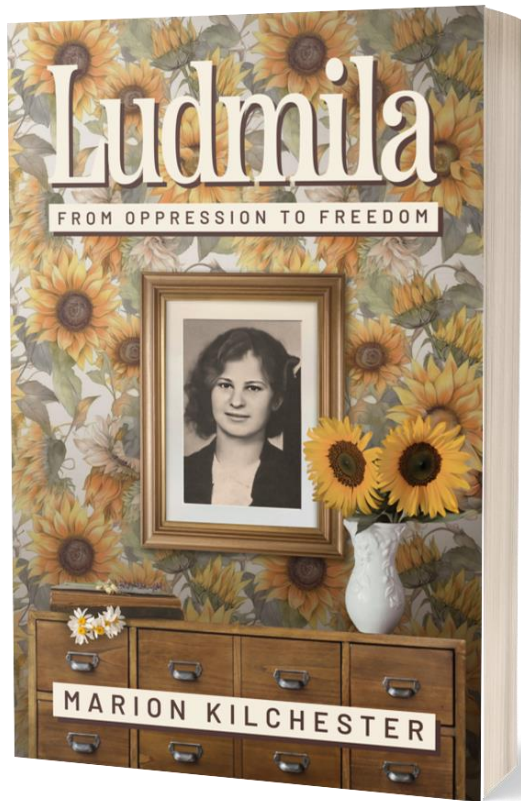


Ludmila

Written by Marion Kilchester



AMIDST THE HORROR, SUNFLOWERS WILL TURN TOWARDS THE SUN...

Beginning in Ukraine during Stalin's rule, Ludmila's story follows her being ripped from her quiet home at two years of age. A telling of the loss of her parents and everything familiar to her, blended amongst the thousands suffering in starvation, and her fight for survival.

At age ten, Ludmila was placed in a Russian Komsomol school and everything pertaining to her Ukrainian heritage became forbidden to mention.

When Hitler's army invades, Ludmila's capture and transportation to a forced-labour camp in Germany leads to an unlikely love story, and the eventual birth of her firstborn son.

Walk her journey through these emotional and inspiring pages to see Ludmila rise from oppression to freedom, from Ukraine and Germany and then to Australia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Marion, retired from teaching, now lives in her country cottage where she can look out at her garden, the birds, and trees as she writes. Her little dog, Hope keeps her company. She loves to write, play her piano, compose music, teach a few piano students, and tend to her garden. Most of all, she loves spending time with her children, grandchildren, and friends.

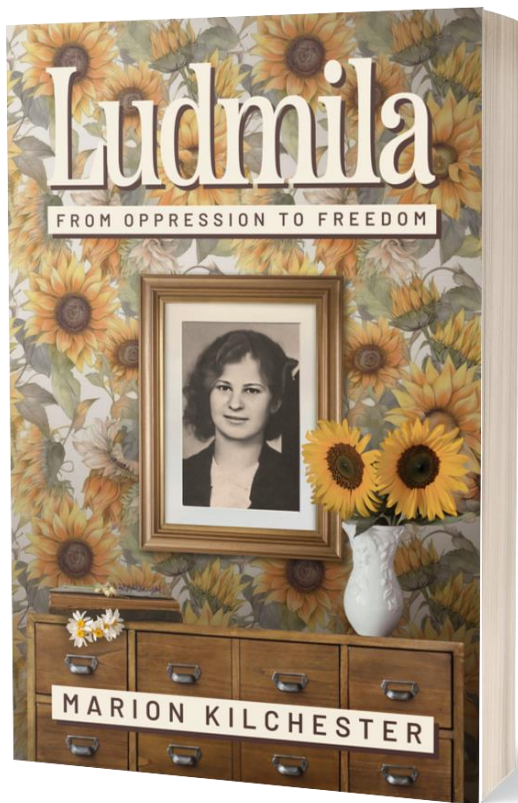
ISBN	9781923171312
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Audience	General
Author Location	Sunshine Coast, QLD

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A CONVERSATION WITH THE AUTHOR

WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALISE YOU WANTED TO WRITE?

I have always loved writing. When I was seventeen, I wrote four goals for my life. One of those goals was to write a book. However, I did not begin writing until 2014 when I was sixty-three.

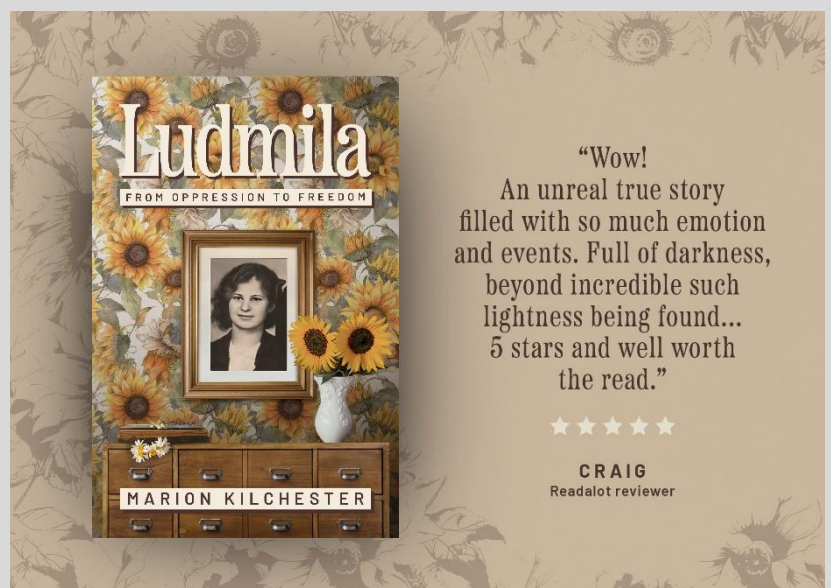
WHAT WAS YOUR RESEARCH PROCESS LIKE?

While researching and writing Ludmila's story, the period from May 1945 until end of 1949 was a blank. Then, Margie, my Ukrainian sister-in-law was sent photos of documents belonging to Ludmila, Mykola and baby Mykola. These documents filled in all the blanks - where they were, what they were doing. The original documents had been destroyed, but at least we had those photos. I was finally able to fill in those four missing years.

During my research trip with Jenny, my neighbour, in 2019, we were taken to Ludmila's and Mykola's first house, on the floodplain of Maitland which they had to vacate when the floods filled that house to the roof line. We were also taken to the hotel where they were billeted upstairs, while the floodwaters surged through the building, beneath their feet. In Bonegilla we saw Block 19, the little tin hut they lived in, and the kitchen, hospital and creche where they had worked while at Bonegilla between 1949 and 1954.

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