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# Chan Soldi Panettiere?

Klitschko is back in the headlines after Panettiere revealed she "didn't know" her daughter, Kaya, was moving to Ukraine with him until it had already happened

By [Virginia Chamlee](#) | Published on September 28, 2022 06:00PM EDT



Wladimir Klitschko and Hayden Panettiere  
Credit : Sean Zanni/Patrick M

[Hayden Panettiere](#)'s ex [Wladimir Klitschko](#), the Ukrainian boxer, actress revealed she didn't know her daughter, Kaya, was moving to Ukraine with her father until it had already happened.

Panettiere, 33, made the admission on *Red Table Talk*, telling the hosts that she didn't know her daughter was moving to Ukraine with her father until it had already happened.



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"I thought she was going over to visit him like she always did," the actress said. "[Kaya] would go back and forth from me in Nashville and Ukraine, and then once she was over there, it was immediately, 'I want full custody of her,' which was a shock to me."

She continued: "It was very upsetting signing those papers to give him full custody. It was like the most heartbreaking thing I've ever, ever had to do in my life. In a country where her uncle [Vitali Klitschko] is the mayor [of Kyiv] and they are icons over there, it's a country where it's very male-dominated. There wasn't a heck of a lot I could do."

Here's more about Kaya's dad, 46-year-old Wladimir Klitschko, who is currently fighting in Ukraine amid the Russian invasion.



Credit: Richard Heathcote/Getty

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Klitschko began training to become a boxer at an early age. He and his older brother, [Vitali](#), quickly became standouts in their amateur boxing bubble.

Shortly before starting his professional boxing career, Klitschko rose to prominence in the 1996 Summer Olympics when he won a gold medal for Ukraine in the super-heavyweight division.

During his professional career, which lasted until 2017, Klitschko twice reigned as the world heavyweight champion. Vitali also won world championships before turning to politics, now leading a political party in Ukraine and serving as mayor of its capital city, Kyiv.

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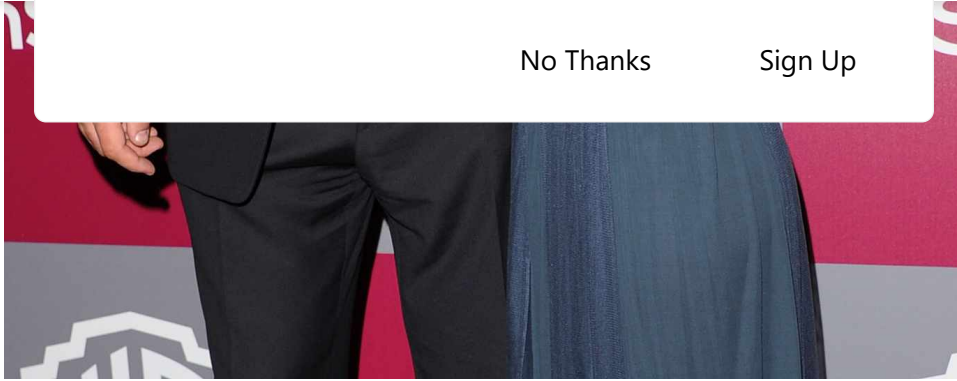


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Credit: Jon Kopaloff/FilmMagic

## Klitschko Met Panettiere at a Party in 2008 and They Later Became Engaged

Panettiere and Klitschko — a 6-foot-6-inch Ukrainian boxer who was formerly the heavyweight champion of the world — met at a mutual friend's party in 2008 before dating on and off for nine years.

In an interview [on \*The Ellen DeGeneres Show\* in 2013](#), Panettiere recounted the first time she met her eventual fiancé. Though she was in a relationship at the time, Panettiere said she made the first move, at least in conversation, by saying to him, "You're huge," to which he responded, "You're tiny."

The two announced their engagement in 2013 and had a daughter together, Kaya Evdokia Klitschko, in December 2014.

Panettiere and Klitschko shared a photo of their daughter shortly after the birth, showing her in a pink outfit and their baby girl.

"He is just so over the moon," Panettiere said. "I'm so lucky if I can get my hands on him. It's exactly what I thought he would be."



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Credit: Source Hayden Panettiere/Instagram

## The Couple Split Up in 2018, and Their Daughter Moved With Him to Ukraine

In August 2018, after Panettiere was photographed holding hands with [Brian Hickerson](#) at a Los Angeles restaurant, her mother confirmed that the *Heroes* actress had split from Klitschko in an interview with [RadarOnline](#).

Following the split, Klitschko and Kaya [moved to Ukraine](#) and nearly a year later, a source [told PEOPLE](#) the living away, and she has other

Panettiere continued to see her vacations with Klitschko and the

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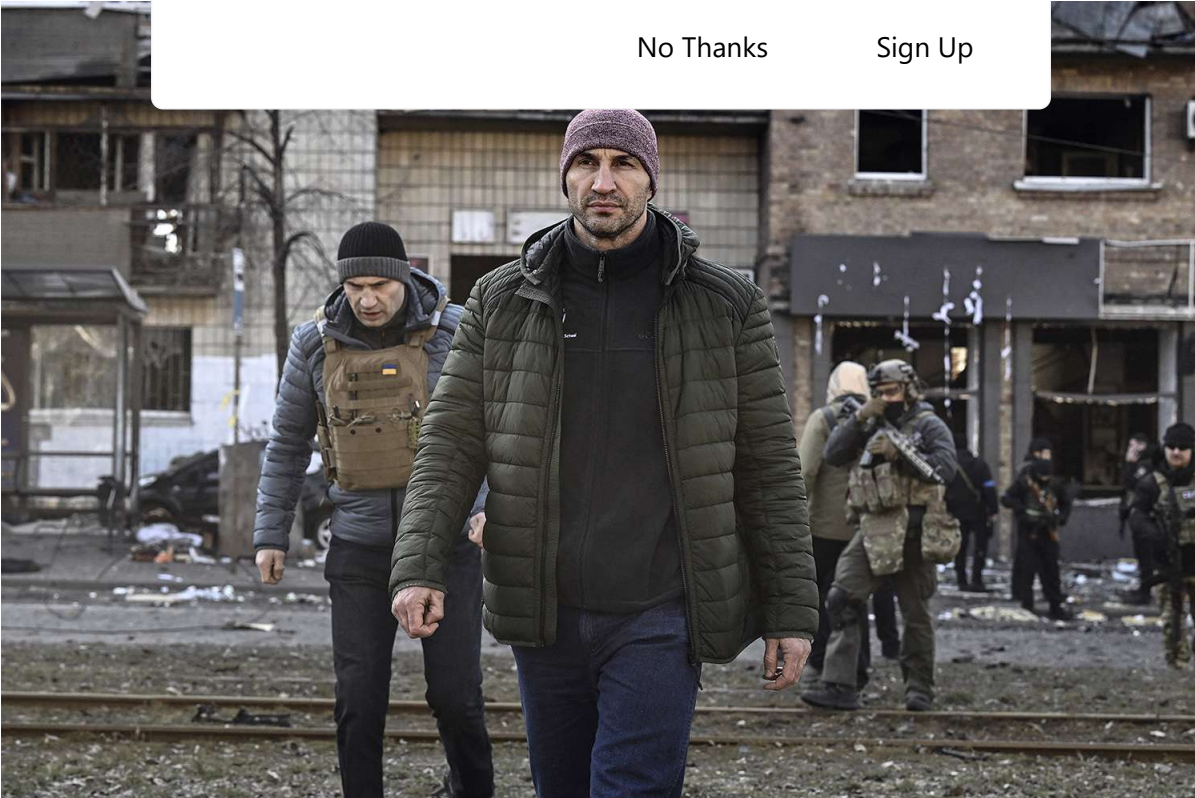
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From left: Vitali Klitschko, mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine, and his brother, Wladimir Klitschko, walk in front of a destroyed apartment building amid the Russian invasion.

Credit: ARIS MESSINIS/AFP via Getty Images

## Klitschko Is a Vocal Activist for (and Literal Defender of) Ukrainian Freedom

Klitschko has been a vocal activist for his home country for years, even visiting Ukraine with Panettiere to voice their support for protestors in November 2013.

"Your fight is not falling on deaf ears at the time. The world will hear and know that I stand by you, I support my country of Ukraine in its entirety and I stand with the Ukrainian people. Keep fighting."

Klitschko has been [fighting for Ukrainian freedom](#) since [Vladimir Putin](#) began the invasion.



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has been the mayor of the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv since 2014, and the

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Speaking to PEOPLE for a June 2022 [cover story](#), Panettiere spoke candidly about battling an addiction to opioids and alcohol along with a bout of postpartum depression.

"I never had the feeling that I wanted to harm my child, but I didn't want to spend any time with her," Panettiere recalled, adding that the addiction impacted her relationship with Klitschko, as well.

"He didn't want to be around me," she said. "I didn't want to be around me. But with the opiates and alcohol I was doing anything to make me feel happy for a moment. Then I'd feel worse than I did before. I was in a cycle of self-destruction."

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Panettiere also gave PEOPLE an [update on her relationship](#) with Kaya, saying that allowing her daughter to move to Ukraine with Klitschko was "the hardest thing I could do."

She continued: "But the best thing I could do was okay, take care of myself and her. And sometimes that means

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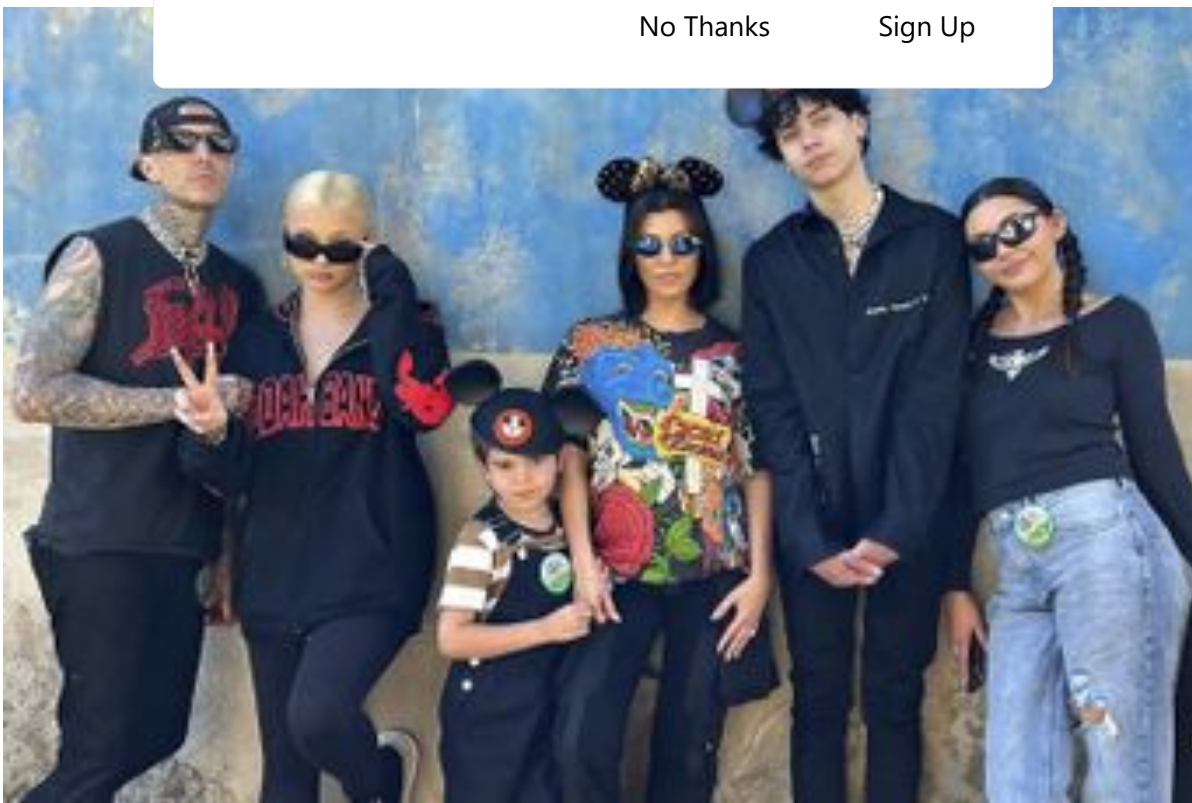
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