

A Note on Last Names

A War Apart takes a lot of its worldbuilding from 16th century Russia. As such, it follows the naming conventions of that time period. The characters do not have standardized surnames; instead, they have patronymics, names taken from their father. Mila is the daughter of Dmitri, so her patronymic is Dmitrievna. Han's father was Anton, so he is Han Antonovich.

You may note that patronymics are used in a lot of places where a standard surname would be unusual—for example, with a housekeeper. The use of a patronymic is a sign of respect for an elder, someone in higher social status, or someone you don't know very well.

Diminutives, such as -ushka, -usha, -ochka, and -iukha are also used throughout the book. These are additions to the end of a given name that imply familiarity and affection. For example: Mila becomes Milochka; Konstantin becomes Kostya becomes Kostiukha.

Below, I have attempted to provide a pronunciation guide and brief glossary for names, Inzhrian terms unique to my world, and Russian words that English readers may not be familiar with. If there's something you think I've missed or would like clarified, feel free to drop me a message here on the website, or email me at contact@dakotahgumm.com

Thanks!

-iukha: (yoo-kuh)

-ochka: (och-kuh)

-ova: (oh-vuh)

-ovich/evich: (o-vich/eh-vich)

-ovna/evna: (ohv-na/ehv-nuh)

-usha: (oo-shuh)

-ushka: (oosh-kuh)

Alexey: (u-LEKS-ee) masculine name

Alisa: (u-LEE-suh) feminine name

Anna: (AH-nuh) feminine name

Andinor: (AND-in-or) a country bordering Inzhria

Arick: (AIR-ik) a barony in Inzhria

Barbezht: (BAR-bezht) site of the battle where Borislav Vyacheslavevich was deposed by his brother Miroslav

Borislav: (BOR-iss-lov) masculine name

Dobromila: (DOH-bro-mee-luh) feminine name

Dorogaya: (dor-oh-GYE-uh) term of endearment akin to “sweetheart” or “love”

Drakra: (DRAH-kruh) a humanoid race of people with stone-like gray skin and the ability to wield shadow-magic. They dwell in the mountainous eastern region of Inzhria.

Fima: (FEE-muh) masculine name

Gamayun: (gah-MAH-yoon) a legless bird with the face of a woman, originating in Russian folklore, whose appearance or fall may have foreshadowed the death of a statesman

Han: (HAHN) masculine name

Idesk: (id-EHSK) the capital city of Inzhria

Il'ich: (IL-ich) patronymic for the son of Ilya

Ilya: (IL-yuh) masculine name

Ilynichna: (il-i-NICH-nuh) patronymic for the daughter of Ilya

Inzhria: (IN-zhree-uh)

Kaftan: (KAF-tan) a form of outerwear that reached approximately to the knees, with long sleeves, worn by all classes

Kokoshnik: (ko-KOSH-nik) a headdress, typically tall and shaped like a shield, worn by married women

Konstantin: (KON-stan-tin) masculine name

Kostya: (KOST-yuh) diminutive of Konstantin

Kvass: (KVAHSS) a grain-based fermented drink with minimal alcohol and a sweet, mildly sour taste. Flavors such as herbs and fruits can be added.

Kyрил: (KEE-ril) masculine name

Lada: (LAH-duh) feminine name

Leckozht: (LEK-ozht) a small evergreen plant with needles, first cultivated in Inzhria by Blood Bastards for its medicinal properties

Lyudmila: (lyood-MEE-luh) feminine name

Marya: (MAR-ee-uh) feminine name

Matvey: (MAT-vay) masculine name

Medovukha: (med-oh-VOO-kuh) a fermented honey drink similar to mead

Mila: (MEE-luh) feminine name, diminutive of names bearing the ending -mila

Miroslav: (MEE-roh-slahv) masculine name

Nikolai: (NIK-oh-lye) masculine name

Otets: (O-tyets) from the Russian word for “father,” the god of the Inzhrians

Pirog: (pi-ROK) filled, baked dough. Can be sweet or savory

Povyazka: (pov-ee-AHZ-kuh) an open-backed headdress worn by unmarried women

Pryaniki: (pree-ah-NEE-kee) sweet honey cookies, often flavored with spices

Pirozhki: (pi-ROZH-kee) baked or fried buns with sweet or savory fillings

Pyotr: (PYOH-ter) masculine name

Radomir: (RAD-oh-meer) masculine name

Sbiten: (SBIT-en) a sweet, nonalcoholic drink made with honey, spices, and juice or jam

Selyik: (SEL-yik) a town in central Inzhria, under the barony of Tsebol

Sergey: (SAIR-gay) masculine name

Sevken: (SEV-kin) the historical seat of the Heir of the Sanctioned, a city in the south of Inzhria

Shchi: (SHEE) a cabbage soup

Sobralen: (SOH-brah-len) a town in central Inzhria

Sofia: (soh-FEE-uh) feminine name

Tsebol: (tseh-BOHL) a city in central Inzhria, the seat of the Tsebol barony

Ulyana: (ool-YAH-nuh) feminine name

Vyacheslav: (VYAH-cheh-slahv) masculine name

Vasily: (VA-sih-lee) masculine name

Yakov: (YA-kov) masculine name

Yegor: (YEH-gor) masculine name

Yelena: (yeh-LAI-nuh) feminine name