

SENSE IN A BOMB SHELTER

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Things that just make sense in a bomb shelter

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© Photos: Valeria Shashenok Contact: valerisssh@story.one

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Dedication

My name's Valeria Shashenok. I'm 20 years-old and I come from Chernihiv, just outside of Kyiv in the north of Ukraine.

I'm a freelance photographer and used to use my social accounts – mostly TikTok and Instagram – to show my work to clients.

Then, when Putin decided to invade Ukraine in February 2022, I filmed and photographed what was going on, what I saw, and posted it on these accounts. For one of these posts, I remembered a TikTok trend I'd seen:

"Things that just make sense in ..."

For me, at that time, it was "Things that just make sense in a bomb shelter ..." because that's where I was living with my mother and father: in a bomb shelter. Since that video was posted, many things have changed. I was no longer simply filming and documenting events in my city to show the world what was happening in Ukraine, now I'd became part of the media coverage: I was interviewed by CNN and on the BBC – and because of this, suddenly I began to get millions of views on my own channels.

The stories I was interviewed about were how I escaped in cars, trains and buses from the Ukrainian city of Chernihiv to Warsaw in Poland then Berlin in Germany before finally ending up in Milan. I had travelled to Italy