

## **Vera Tytova talks about being separated from her fiancé Max and briefly returning to Ukraine in June 2022 to marry him.**

In Vinnytsia we had to say goodbye to each other. When I was on the bus I was thinking *“Did I say the right words?”* or maybe I had to say to him something else because you know, the last, the thing we were talking about was *“Did you have enough water with you?”* and, like, *“Do you have everything you need?”*. And then he was asking me, he was getting me more water and going to the shop, and then, I thought, instead of talking to each other, we were, you know, he was getting the water! I needed to know when we will see each other again...

In June I went back to Ukraine to get married. I went back for just one week and that was a good reason; we just felt that it is the right thing to do...

We didn't have a wedding, now in Ukraine, due to Marshal Law, now you don't have to book an appointment for a month or three months beforehand, you just can do it day to day. So I went to Ukraine for one week, and we have this talk before, so maybe we should get married. We shall, we shall. And when I was in Ukraine, I don't know, second day? I said to Max, *“I'll go to hairdresser because I'm so untidy, I'll go to hairdresser.”* And then he went to the Register Office and it's a queue, you know, he was in the queue and I was cutting my hair and then he called me and he said, *“There are just two people before us, go back! Run!”*

It was not the wedding dress, it was just a regular dress, but it was still the dress. We did not have guests, it was just the two of us and then I called a friend to join us and maybe have some picture of us. We asked her to come and we had a bottle of champagne in the park, just two of us enjoying the day and, you know, hoping for a better future.

*In your house, is there more to celebrate when you are able to?*

Oh, too many missed birthdays and weddings and, you know, I think when we will be able to all come together, families and friends, probably we will not remember all the reasons, we will just be happy to be together again.