Спадщина (heritage)

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When I was a little girl, my grandmother taught my brother and I to cook ravioli with our ancestors’ recipe. He and I always argued over who should flatten the dough and I tried to make my ravioli look better than his. My grandmother never wanted us to argue; she said we would not know who made which ravioli when they came out of the pot. And when they were cooked, my entire family sat down to eat together.

A year after my grandpa passed, my mother drove to Youngstown to purchase perogii from her childhood church. She lost the family recipe when she left home, erasing Ukraine from her heritage starting that day.

I could not find the words to comfort my mother when I noticed her crying over the stove – all her perogii had fallen to pieces.