**Владимир Познер. Фразы из книги *Parting with Illusions***

**Chapter 1**

Set phrases:

1. I remember distinctly
2. I was as mad as a hornet [шершень]
3. my memory may be playing tricks on me, but I recall his eyes
4. as I tunnel back through the years to that (now distant) day
5. quickly became part of family legend and lore
6. a fact of enormous magnitude
7. to celebrate religious feasts in forth but not in content
8. that song took him back to his childhood
9. a song that had wrenched his heart as a boy
10. one scene remains branded in my memory, I can close my eyes and let it roll in harsh black and white, clearer than in any screening room
11. he is transfixed with horror
12. I can vaguely recall the apartment
13. to crack jokes
14. my recollections of that place are faint
15. a staunch supporter of socialism
16. bits and scraps of information
17. I squeal with delight
18. a chorus of triumphant hoorays
19. in the eerie silence
20. the work was amateur and sloppy
21. but I remember with absolute clarity
22. I flew at him with the righteous rage and fury
23. the surge of pure delight
24. it was then that I actually registered in my mind the existence of a country called the Soviet Union, a country worthy of respect, gratitude, and love
25. prejudice of any kind was akin to being a Nazi
26. a cock-and-bull story
27. congregated to drink tea and talk politics
28. I spoke no Russian whatsoever, but every now and then they [father’s friends] would lapse into French for my mother
29. she was far ahead of her time
30. an outlook that has permitted me to live in harmony with life, rather than in confrontation
31. not just dusty musty history for us
32. it was physically painful and morally degrading
33. they didn’t give a tinker’s damn about any of us
34. this view dovetailed neatly with French law
35. there simply are no ballplayers of that caliber around today
36. he was literally a walking, talking, and living legend
37. I watch it avidly on television when I am in the States, and also get it on cassette
38. something now considered a bit of an anomaly
39. despite all the hype today
40. how I managed the introduction with that kind of ammo, I’ll never know
41. a bolt of lightning
42. a vested interest
43. KGB kept its watchful eye on us
44. our phone was tapped
45. he didn’t sell his principles, ever
46. I was mortified, so much so that I stopped buying the magazine
47. they haven’t got the foggiest notion about Jewish culture
48. if we suck that in with our mother’s milk, it will contribute to shaping our psyche just as surely as the milk itself will contribute to the growth of our body
49. I felt a tremendous surge of pride
50. it was no laughing matter

New words:

1. bump
2. [there is no] jolt
3. telltale signs
4. commemorative matchbox
5. semblance
6. a bed-and-board chateau
7. chasm
8. to fete
9. intellectual milieu
10. heady days
11. rakishly
12. émigré
13. to expatriate
14. wild escapades
15. halfheartedly
16. with apprehension
17. morsel
18. a rake
19. an astute assumption
20. vignette
21. upsa-daisy
22. oblivious to
23. imploring
24. to convalesce
25. to goad
26. ambergris
27. uncannily
28. to bawl
29. to parish
30. to bellow
31. a cavalry saber
32. affluent
33. a casement
34. a terrier
35. to illuminate
36. a snot-nosed kid
37. boorish
38. leniency
39. poise
40. impish
41. crude
42. to denigrate
43. dormant
44. menace
45. stupendous
46. lead austere lives
47. to indoctrinate
48. to abhor
49. to propagate
50. gullible
51. animosity
52. to epitomize [epitome]
53. ardently
54. stringent
55. status quo

**Chapter 2**

Set phrases:

1. came to our home to enjoy good wine and good company
2. his prospects of getting a job were nil
3. a man who carried his politics on his sleeve for all to see
4. to give evasive answers
5. we were included on her passport; not so my father
6. like a bolt out of the blue
7. because, contrary to folklore, they are not stupid
8. when push came to shove
9. to keep an even keel
10. but deep down inside it gnawed away at me
11. to beat smb to a pulp
12. the feeling of utter helplessness of my condition
13. film is a potent force
14. is not strictly a German attribute
15. most of them cringed at the idea
16. I could have died of shame
17. I stood there, red in the face, desperately wishing the ceiling would collapse and bury all of us
18. its [profanity] cadences are majestic
19. to say in a hoarse voice
20. to say in a matter-of-fact voice
21. was understatement par excellence
22. to fill glasses to the rim
23. and this was reflected in their manners
24. was beyond my comprehension
25. the food was coarse
26. . . . before the beginning of the war, let alone after it
27. to thwart the danger
28. no such things crossed my mind
29. I was, as the French say, more Catholic than the pope
30. the discrepancy between what I had expected and what I found
31. axiomatic truths
32. tunnel vision
33. without batting an eye
34. even if I did have the authority to pass such a judgment, what difference would it make?
35. as long as we humans remain in existence
36. solution to the most abhorrent of all crimes
37. she bestows her favors on another man
38. they shun him, shrink away from him, for by killing he has cast away his humanity
39. instead of solving anything, it furnishes the illusion of having hit upon the perfect answer
40. a glittering showcase
41. to rivet the attention of East Berliners
42. the flow of people from East to West grew from a trickle to a torrent
43. the most severe strain on child-parent relations
44. my mother passed that test with flying colors; my father flunked
45. the romantic hell-or-high-water attitude
46. all the children adored her, my father included
47. to inflict a punishment
48. the least you can do is eat [!grammar!]
49. that is obeisance, as opposed to obedience
50. everyone else basks in the glory of his harmony
51. overjoyed at the opportunity to demonstrate their love
52. I didn’t like it, which I announced for all who might be interested to hear
53. I will not bore you with the gory details
54. my brother Paul, eleven years my junior
55. then my father got a grip on himself
56. we buried the hatchet
57. stunned by such sacrilegious doubt

New words:

1. to incur one’s wrath
2. obtuse
3. to underrate smb
4. to squeak
5. to squeal
6. to sway to asinine
7. tutelage
8. to have an abhorrence of smth
9. a moat
10. privation
11. scrawny
12. to spar
13. ferociously
14. to repulse
15. tightfisted
16. insolent
17. to fawn
18. coarseness
19. to vilify
20. to torment
21. profanity
22. nonchalantly
23. to flaunt
24. desolate
25. turbulent
26. anti-Soviet barrage
27. to exacerbate
28. unscathed
29. aplenty
30. to tantalize/ tantalizing
31. menacing
32. to jolt
33. to cajole
34. deftly
35. pomposity
36. to scold
37. to resent
38. to dismount
39. to epitomize
40. to exorcise
41. a purr
42. to squirm
43. a screeching stop (in a car)
44. hapless fellow
45. incredulity
46. to disgress

**Chapter 3**

Set phrases:

1. to be sure, a home whose threshold I had never crossed, much less lived in
2. built in my mind’s eye
3. but suffice it to say that
4. I could not believe anyone would have the stupidity, let alone the lack of compassion, to refuse me
5. in a state of blind shock and blind hatred
6. reports written about me by the finks and stoolies
7. the Russians say, “If something is not allowed but you want it bad enough, you can get it”|
8. that is a different story pertaining to a different time
9. left no visual imprint on my mind
10. I bear you no rancor
11. it is really nothing to get upset about; it goes with the turf
12. I played out my phantasy in my mind
13. they would have t pull in a couple of hitches on their belts
14. made me sick to my stomach
15. I couldn’t make heads or tails of what was going on
16. had sold their Motherland for thirty pieces of silver
17. journalists spew out endless copy extolling her virtues
18. to allay my apprehensions with that thought
19. undercover hit men
20. it was executed in cold blood with Teutonic exactitude
21. the Georgians suffered as much as, if not more than, any national group in the Soviet Union
22. if one person had to be sacrificed, so be it
23. Stalin’s convoluted mind
24. peopled loved and venerated him
25. conditions being what they were, there is nothing surprising in his not having been able to land a job
26. a fitful sleep
27. people scurried hither and yon
28. sat silently, each wrapped in our own thoughts
29. much in the same way
30. a source of acute discomfort
31. rivulets of humanity
32. turbulent rivers that all funneled into a narrow torrent
33. [the streets] were trampled to death
34. perhaps my memory plays tricks on me, but I think there were . . .
35. my chances were slim
36. to have squads of operatives cruising the streets of Moscow
37. as a memento of each encounter . . .
38. I was very depressed, feeling certain I had been knocked out of the running
39. and, miracle of miracles, I somehow . . .
40. don’t jump to conclusions—I said to myself
41. I found myself staring into space, eyes unfocused, the letters on the lists blurring
42. I’m sorry, but there is only room for so many
43. his eyes would narrow to slits
44. with that, he stalked out of the room
45. I was immediately on my guard
46. I’m just not cut out for that kind of work
47. leonine mane of gray hair
48. to learn the hard way
49. if I turned out to be OK, so much the better
50. we were still testing the waters
51. [a face] that left my tongue-tied
52. I could describe the body in minute detail
53. depending on how you looked at it, I had arrived at the best or the worst time
54. a ballet, the name of which escapes me
55. my heart began to pound wildly
56. another ten years elapsed before I saw her again
57. immersed in her own thoughts
58. imagine my mortification at having to stand naked
59. every nook and cranny of my body was looked into and commented upon
60. indomitable sense of humor
61. on a provisional basis (на испытательный срок – в университете)
62. made a great big stink if anything got fouled up
63. nobody gave a hoot in a hell about me
64. to incur the navy\s wrath
65. biology was really riot my thing
66. dogmatism, aggressive ignorance, a pettiness of mind
67. [he] proceeded to go into a litany
68. a bout of modesty
69. pandemonium broke loose
70. when the laughter finally subsided, Ootyonkov gave me a look so charged with hatred that I felt the hair on my neck prickle
71. gave me a venomous look
72. suddenly in walked a man
73. I distinctly remember being brilliant, so much so that when I finished, . . .
74. exulting inside, I put on my modest face and shrugged
75. the die is cast
76. who mainly parroted the part line without any attempt
77. I was just learning the ropes
78. graduation thesis (дипломная работа)
79. what sticks out in my mind is the beauty of . . .
80. [it] will remain embedded in my memory forever thanks to an experience I would rather forget
81. for the adventuresome, the doubting Thomases, and those with suicidal tendencies, I recommend . . .
82. only please don’t forget to have an ambulance handy
83. under the star-studded summer Siberian sky, I searched desperately for the outhouse
84. for some uncanny reason
85. where I Homer, I would at this juncture launch into an epic description of the Outhouse in the Soviet Union
86. a belief on my part
87. psychological preparedness
88. the ingenuity of Gargantua
89. the torture chambers of Torquemada pale in comparison
90. I was twenty-one and chafing at the bit
91. I immediately developed a wholesome dislike for the Gordons
92. strong pro-Soviet sentiments
93. the questions are all there, and they beg an answer
94. a man who, to use test-pilot lingo, never really . . .
95. he was of medium height and thin to the point of being scrawny
96. I was riveted by his eyes
97. thank you, I’m in good health
98. evening upon evening would I sit there
99. part of Czarina Alexandra’s retinue
100. he had a keen mind, the most biting and ironic sense of humor, and a tongue like a rapier
101. ironically, the deeper they sink into their self-created quagmire, the slimmer the chances of their ever loving
102. to take a masochistic delight in smth
103. you can flunk any test, except one, the mirror test
104. the Russians say, “Man supposes, God disposes”
105. remains etched in my mind
106. made a calm seem gregarious
107. they reminded me scarecrows floating over the snow
108. with a mirthless laugh
109. I posit this scenario
110. this was not some remote figure, such as George Washington; he was a contemporary
111. his impact on the world was terrible but not of a long duration
112. it didn’t really affect the psyche of the German people in a lasting way
113. he donned Lenin’s mantle
114. there was no shrinking responsibility or goldbricking
115. his successors were of another ilk
116. to spread its tentacles from .. to
117. there are no ambiguous answers, much less simple ones
118. everything was black and white: friend and foe, good and bad, hot and cold, no in-betweens, no curving or wiggly lines
119. those who are not with us are against us
120. and they were not completely wrong

New words:

1. pent-up frustration
2. to summon
3. cubbyhole
4. to rap on
5. to ail
6. in extremis
7. (my) chagrin
8. popsicle
9. quinsy
10. bustling (city)
11. sturgeon
12. a plush
13. enthralling
14. vile
15. to christen
16. clandestinely
17. vigilance
18. heinous
19. beleaguered awareness
20. infallible
21. bier
22. to converge
23. swirling and eddying
24. maelstrom
25. to mesmerize
26. cavern
27. to engulf
28. foolhardy
29. to venture
30. to be jolted
31. be awestruck
32. diligently
33. potentate
34. frailty
35. delirious(ly)
36. to warrant
37. congenial
38. to quake
39. to draft (into the Army)
40. auburn hair
41. cicerone
42. unmatched
43. opaque
44. furtively
45. denizen
46. acrid odor
47. overpowering
48. anal aperture
49. a lascivious grin
50. a cork (пробка)
51. a huddle
52. recruitment center
53. regimentation
54. obtuseness
55. arid
56. perfunctory
57. a catechism
58. ilk
59. schmuk
60. a backlash
61. stratagems
62. oblong
63. to gloat
64. paradisiacal
65. pernicious
66. con (artist)
67. contempt
68. to tarnish
69. dilute
70. syrupy
71. aperitif
72. thimbleful of vodka
73. connoisseur
74. voluptuous
75. soothing
76. thorchecul (ass wiper)
77. beak inflict
78. terrain
79. to lurch
80. to espouse
81. penetrating
82. to squirm
83. to cringe
84. hell’s crucible
85. an impish twinkle
86. solemnly
87. fragrant
88. beyond the confines
89. a gentile
90. to snuff out
91. Calvary
92. indomitable
93. to scrimp
94. sneer
95. to relish
96. to dissipate
97. to endow
98. turret
99. a wry smile
100. a flair for literature
101. a gnat
102. a horsefly
103. profusely
104. a feeding frenzy
105. a bumblebee
106. a lumber camp
107. chiseled face
108. to doze off
109. a grunt
110. an inmate, incarcerated person
111. patition
112. to take a leak
113. to shackle
114. gaunt
115. to vilify
116. to mastermind
117. an associate
118. vile
119. all the while
120. to lure into smth
121. irrefutable condemnation
122. ponderous
123. to chortle back
124. millions of warped souls
125. rostrum
126. laughingstock
127. to cringe with shame
128. condescendingly
129. willy-nilly
130. raison d’etre
131. mental wards [психбольница]
132. to dissent
133. tenure
134. graft [= bribery]

**Chapter 4**

Set phrases:

1. I made the acquaintance of
2. the words blew me away
3. much to my parents’ disappointment, I declined
4. the overwhelming majority of
5. but above all else
6. go through thick and thin
7. many is the time I fought the desire to reach out and touch them
8. the tricks of the trade
9. the list goes on and on
10. I listened for hours on end
11. or so the legend goes
12. I realize all too well that
13. wrack one’s brains
14. he smoked heavily
15. akin to
16. as fate would have it
17. then-unknown
18. a host of artists
19. firsthand knowledge
20. as had been the case in the past
21. believe it or not
22. the aching wounds of the past
23. he hit the ceiling
24. as the song goes
25. by and large
26. not a bad person at heart
27. to her way of seeing things
28. but sarcasm aside
29. (just) for the record,
30. and the hell broke loose
31. at their own risk
32. then-prominent
33. knew the subject inside out
34. a host of literary works
35. by the same token
36. to write, as the Russian expression goes, “for the drawer”
37. as a matter of principle
38. much in the same way
39. on a host of conditions
40. it all comes down to one simple word: *why?*
41. for fear of dying
42. from without and within, as was the case with
43. to say the least
44. to let someone off the hook
45. just two cases that come to mind
46. society at large
47. to put behind bars (than to let him go)
48. feel at ease
49. amazing but true
50. to take the cue
51. at its best
52. my love of literature
53. graduation thesis
54. Great God
55. at Moscow University
56. Biology Department students
57. institution of higher learning
58. housing shortage = квартирный вопрос
59. would be pleased to see me on such and such a day and time
60. bring to (the) fore an incredible array of writers
61. the decapitation of the country’s intellectual/artistic community
62. one stanza of a poem
63. snobs tend to look down their noses at such simplicity
64. difficult to render in a foreign language
65. I watched him edit, re-edit, and re-re-edit
66. drive oneself to a state of utter exhaustion
67. he was tortured by the thought of not having achieved perfection
68. he latched on to me as a second son
69. there was no way I could have answered in kind = тем же (на «вы»)
70. his eye twinkling mischievously
71. I was a sly son of a bitch
72. I was a nobody
73. literary magazine
74. he found it very pedestrian, of no interest whatsoever
75. you are cocreating
76. sometimes the task is formidable, virtually impossible
77. my exposure to the literary world
78. Krushchev’s de-Stalinization speech
79. it was, to say the least, a heady time
80. fume with outrage at smth
81. the first man in space
82. not just a bystander, but an active participant
83. he was truly outraged
84. who capitalized on it
85. they were among the first out the door
86. time and time again
87. I’ve missed my monthlies
88. simultaneous interpreter
89. Furtseva had a fit
90. loves to play the purity card
91. sure, I like boats, but that’s about as far as it goes
92. exploited to the hilt by western propaganda
93. turned on the shower to neutralize any bugging devices
94. to the everlasting shame of that organization
95. it’s a black page in its history that the union will never wipe clean
96. he was a formidable debater
97. Socialist Realism
98. mumbo jumbo of the Stalin era
99. a classic study.. that has yet to be translated into Russian
100. I must abide by certain rules
101. the things I said departed from tradition
102. cast her lot with this new society
103. *spetskhran*, the special repository
104. intolerance of dissenting opinion
105. for reasons that go far beyond the scope of this book
106. take a stand on issues of social importance
107. the sentence was commuted to five years of hard labor and military conscription
108. I know of no other country
109. albeit with polar reactions
110. make no mistake, these were..
111. unique venues for expressing sentiments and thoughts that otherwise had no outlet
112. a way to silence or neutralize critics
113. he burned the candles at both ends, driving himself like a man obsessed [Vysotsky]
114. the outpouring of grief was spontaneous, authentic, and universal
115. its intellectual community was extremely small but of the purest water
116. like a ray of sun focused through a magnifying glass, ..
117. it is the yeast in the social dough
118. very rarely can it act in concert, assemble under one banner
119. the same question does not apply to..
120. insofar as social development is concerned
121. no one has succeeded—nor will they ever
122. Marxist theory must be scrutinized carefully, as must Lenin’s ideas
123. during my second year as a biology student
124. whether to vote yea or nay
125. caught totally unaware, I thought she was joking
126. very few have the sangfroid to recall the simple fact that Marx died well before Engels
127. a failure I candidly admitted
128. my statement produced shocked silence
129. we give you one week to catch up on your reading
130. consummate skill
131. total dedication
132. if you are a member of a team, you can debate issues of tactics and strategy to your heart\s content
133. insane asylums
134. to run whatever needs be run
135. if worse should come to worse, I will be able to make a living
136. all they know how to do is manage
137. there were many such cases
138. says “Yes, sir!” and snaps off a salute, then goes back to the farm and does what he thinks is right anyway
139. those concepts must be reconsidered
140. American chauvinism—the utter belief in being special, a chosen people
141. to be programmed to believe
142. leave your troubles at the doorstep
143. then he caught himself, spun around, and asked
144. market oriented
145. you cannot help but be amazed
146. as is always the case, there is no all-encompassing answer, but part of it has to do with politics and goes back to the origins of the cold war
147. social conscience, nation’s conscience
148. in their heyday in the 30s and 40s, unions were a major social force
149. with the onset of the cold war
150. give us bigger paychecks and we won’t rock the boat

New words:

1. savor
2. entail
3. edifice
4. agitate
5. ebb
6. elude
7. thaw
8. pariah
9. bigotry
10. castigate
11. obnoxious
12. espouse
13. retaliation
14. be drummed out of literary ranks
15. displeasure
16. alluding
17. caustic
18. snuff out
19. probe, probing
20. loquacious
21. elucidate
22. things are hunky-dory

**Chapter 5**

Set phrases:

1. it was by a stroke of luck that
2. was the result of soul-searching
3. I have no memory of it
4. was stingy in the extreme
5. that was my main incentive
6. but that fit perfectly into my scheme
7. of which I had only a fragmentary experience
8. it can make you or break you
9. the minority perceives them as a threat
10. it would be an oversimplification to say that
11. it includes a broad spectrum
12. reached their zenith
13. an uplifting optimism
14. to put it bluntly (прямо, резко)
15. to be loath to do smth
16. to change things for the better
17. to appreciate the wisdom of the Russian adage “We all look at the world from our own belfry”
18. to interpret everything from our own frame of reference
19. they saluted my many talents
20. took me aside
21. it’s been a long time since you heard anything halfway nice said to you
22. to be right on target in my judgment
23. a flight of imagination
24. a sobering comment on my limited knowledge
25. first and foremost
26. the choice between the lesser of two evils
27. much in the same way, . . .
28. cotton has also bled the people dry
29. not only was the modesty false, but so was the premise
30. the exam board at Moscow University
31. I never felt a surge of pride at smth
32. I grew up regarding myself as French, my mother’s nationality
33. it’s a good line, a typically Evtushenkoesque piece of rhetoric
34. I have never heard of a single person being put behind bars, let alone sentenced to death, . . .
35. the national psyche
36. there is solid evidence to the contrary
37. institutions of higher learning
38. Jews were not welcome [!grammar!]
39. the situation took a turn for the worse
40. to reinforce the concept of emigrant as traitor
41. have been branded a traitor by his former countrymen
42. who had never entertained the thought of leaving the country
43. when one sees people being victimized, one is duty-bound to react
44. chances to emigrate were nil
45. do not give a tinker’s damn about them
46. again, the professor answered in the negative
47. throughout the dinner, I pontificated on different aspects of life in the Soviet Union
48. as the Russian saying goes, in a fishless situation even a crayfish will pass for a fish
49. to fish for information
50. a man of integrity
51. the revelation that . . . left me cold
52. I was afraid to take that risk or pay that price
53. On the one hand, . . . On the other hand, . . . On the third hand (which is impossible, but not for a nightmare)
54. I became cocky (дерзкий, наглый)
55. he unlocked the door and motioned for me to get out
56. I could hear my heart thudding in my ears
57. one is what one feels
58. the tail that wags the dog
59. he greeted me and waved me into an armchair
60. make you sick to your stomach
61. to walk the razor’s edge
62. to sing hosannas to the Party
63. distorted views of America
64. I made that promise in all honesty
65. those were lonely and trying times
66. but this was a gift horse
67. Moscow’s University Department of Classical Languages
68. our fifth and last year of university studies
69. the reasons? I could probably tick off a whole list
70. as was the family ritual
71. we think we can fool life by refusing to admit the truth
72. it was a blow to my ego, to my certainty that, while such things happened to other people, I was immune because I was somehow special
73. feel that way deep down in our hearts
74. by the same token
75. we are poor students of that science [humility]; rarely does even an entire lifetime suffice to fully master it
76. to pall around with as many Americans as possible
77. I wasn’t much of a catch
78. to know by experience
79. my inner turmoil
80. time and time again, reality puts the most fertile imagination to shame
81. Journalism always involves choices—choices among subjects, treatment, words. As a result, the claim of objective reporting functions to camouflage what is in fact a value-laden activity.
82. Americans—their Soviet counterparts
83. at face value
84. albeit in a very private conversation
85. he was absolutely on target [попал в точку]
86. family oriented, modest to the point of being shy
87. the breaks with that dispiriting tradition
88. opening up of the media
89. the prerogative of the inner sanctum
90. the editor was a wise old fox
91. there is yet another obstacle along the way
92. for lack of a better word
93. on a given issue
94. ninety five times out of a hundred
95. to work in good faith to carry it out
96. my personal morality must be an ultimate arbiter
97. I tried not to think about it [!grammar!]
98. to catch people’s eyes
99. a section of articles on a wide array of topics
100. to be sold at newsstands
101. to rub the nose in the dirt
102. to rock the boat
103. mouth-to-mouth resuscitation
104. as fate would have it
105. to walk out of the office to stretch my legs
106. much to my surprise and delight
107. pipelines, conduits for the official view
108. the sky’s the limit
109. esoteric practice
110. distorted to the point of becoming a parody of itself
111. to break bread with their authors
112. brought a lump into my throat
113. the reason is so implausible as to sound perverse
114. whoever pays the bill calls the tune [кто платит, тот заказывает музыку]
115. to go click-dick-click from network to network
116. I’m not Pollyannaish about smth
117. an ongoing debate as to why these problems were covered up in the past
118. end of story [period; case closed]

New words:

1. putrefaction
2. to jilt
3. clamor
4. a patchwork quilt of smth
5. bewildering
6. travail
7. despicable
8. to conk out
9. to stud
10. succinctly
11. viceroy
12. discrepancy
13. to irk
14. exacerbation
15. to induce
16. erroneous
17. to permeate
18. to siphon
19. volatile
20. to endow (with)
21. to ogle
22. to repudiate
23. doggedly (repeated)
24. prowess
25. a vestige of smth
26. onslaught
27. the purges (of the late thirties)
28. to befell
29. overt
30. alias
31. (a) pompous (fool)
32. vise (тиски)
33. keel
34. to entail
35. withering (look)
36. to frequent
37. divulging
38. wringer
39. a snow job (обман)
40. to hit it off
41. prone to do smth
42. to be par for smth
43. to pump (me for everything I was worth)
44. be privy to (secret information)
45. adverse circumstances
46. to be astound by smth
47. to wager
48. staggering misnomer
49. to toy smth
50. to grapple with
51. dissent
52. to toe the party line
53. to rebut
54. belatedly
55. to pertain
56. revolting
57. to lodge (a protest with smb)
58. mouthpiece
59. to bespeak
60. to relegate
61. a small fry [мелкая сошка, милюзга]
62. vibrant
63. to be drummed out of journalism
64. sales plummeted
65. seditious
66. to prompt smb to do smth
67. strangulation
68. blotchy
69. suede pumps
70. like some empress with her retinue
71. to lurk
72. a smattering
73. to begrudge
74. repulsive
75. adept at smth
76. to squirm
77. to impale
78. to be seismic to American readers
79. to preclude
80. to engender
81. to spawn
82. citizenry
83. Jewry
84. to be hell-bent on smth
85. a watchdog
86. farcical

**Chapter 6**

Set phrases:

1. Nikita Khrushchev was ousted from office
2. the intelligentsia was his staunchest supporter
3. to extol his wisdom, his statesmanship
4. on another plane, . . .
5. by the same token
6. Khrushchev has a few feathers in his green fedora
7. beyond an iota of doubt
8. allow me to digress
9. a Soviet playwright of brilliant talent and scintillating wit
10. but even so, gossip has it that
11. the Dragon is gone, only to promptly be replaced by the two men who formely did his bidding
12. his career had been meteoric
13. in a matter of a few years
14. her father died a hero’s death
15. as a gesture of gratitude for his service to the country
16. the point stands as a kind of dividing line between . . .
17. I felt a mixture of hope and dread
18. but while I denied the possibility of an invasion, scoffed at the very idea, my inner self was preparing for the inevitable
19. to harbor the thought of smth
20. succinctly
21. there is reason to believe that
22. [they] pat me on the back while I squirm at their touch
23. on the rack of that dilemma
24. how long can you spout off about freedom and liberty and democracy . . .
25. to rock the boat
26. a purpose diametrically opposed to everything I believe in
27. I was delirious with joy
28. a glimmer of hope
29. in 1961, or thereabouts, I began . . .
30. to partake in a discussion about
31. I felt rotten, dirty, despicable
32. without a second thought
33. such things were more often the rule than the exception
34. an unorthodox approach to smth
35. to have moment of the darkest despair
36. every now and then
37. to react to smth as a personal affront
38. I had become somewhat blasé about being interviews by the western press
39. to take smth in stride
40. the usual way to handle that question was to bob and weave, use the yes-but approach, do a couple of verbal headstands, turn a few cartwheels
41. meanwhile, the machinery had been set in motion
42. this is not a verbatim quote, but it is extremely close
43. when it was all over, when my nose had been rubbed in the dirt
44. news that nearly knocked me out of my sit [= чуть со стула не упал]
45. I flatly refuse to . . .
46. this is something I know firsthand, because it just so happens that my son . . .
47. what followed is indelibly imprinted on my mind
48. deathly silence followed [= наступила гробовая тишина]
49. it was pure jubilation

New words:

1. coarsely
2. to invoke
3. to resent
4. a blustering loudmouth
5. uncouth
6. poise
7. ouster
8. rascally
9. grievously
10. conniving
11. petty
12. apprehensive
13. a retaliatory response
14. gruff voice
15. revulsion
16. jauntily
17. [cigarette stuck out] at a rakish angle
18. obnoxious
19. to chicken out
20. incantation
21. dismal day
22. detractor
23. to condemn
24. infamous
25. a psychiatric ward
26. to be home free [Am. slang]
27. to pillory
28. abject poverty
29. dissenter
30. to dodge
31. grudgingly
32. tinge
33. piddling
34. tentatively
35. a stringer [внештатный корреспондент]
36. to furnish (an example)
37. innocuous
38. to convoke
39. eloquent
40. clemency
41. repercussion
42. to revoke
43. an embezzler
44. a crook
45. a protégé
46. a hatchet job
47. to concur
48. loathing
49. a scoundrel
50. haughty disdain
51. in a somewhat petulant tone
52. a sapper

**Chapter 7**

Set phrases:

1. Stalinist terror notwithstanding, they believed in Stalin [!grammar!]
2. in celebration of smth
3. a devout believer
4. was beyond his grasp
5. insofar as hope and belief are concerned
6. humanistic ideals of socialism galvanized the nation
7. to be an open secret
8. but even this statement is based on hearsay
9. as time showed, I was right on target
10. the events of that period played into their hands
11. they didn’t leave a deep imprint on people’s minds
12. it is fun to sip a gin and tonic and reminisce about the difficulties of those times
13. obviously . . . no less obviously . . .
14. a host of other details
15. to recognize one another on sight
16. but I staggered to my feet at the count of eight and came back with a few punches of my own
17. materialized out of nowhere in no time flat
18. dramatic as that might seem, it was in fact far more so for Soviets who had never heard theit country criticized publicly
19. she managed to establish a human rapport with every Soviet she spoke to
20. I was emotionally drained, completely deflated
21. the archetypal party functionary
22. he was terribly limited on his outlook
23. a man with a tunnel vision
24. he came to be regarded as tinker and baker and candlestick maker
25. he gave each of us a bone-crushing handshake
26. to defend or attack the same point of view or action with equal conviction
27. glasnost was still in embryonic form
28. the odds were against the spacebridge
29. all the while
30. not a muscle has twitched
31. we all went out and got roaring drunk
32. he got bad vibes from the Central Committee apparatus
33. by a fluke of circumstance
34. an unrehearsed discussion
35. stood up for my country on issues of principle
36. rest assured [будьте уверены]
37. the famous saying “I have met the enemy and he is us”
38. from the outset
39. after which all the hell broke loose
40. commentators weighed in on the issue
41. I say this without rancor
42. was in vogue
43. to be beyond a question of doubt
44. to ridicule the idea
45. spiraling problems
46. to ponder the results
47. to trace the chain of cause and effect back to the source
48. ideological outlook
49. it is not farfetched to suppose that
50. in the nooks and crannies of his gigantic country
51. this decision could not but detonate violence
52. or the entire society would go down the tubes [потерпеть крах, провалиться]

New words:

1. sledgehammer
2. head-on assault
3. denunciation
4. parched lungs [пересохшие]
5. part and parcel of smth [важнейшая часть]
6. to trim the sail of smth
7. stranglehold
8. to scramble
9. coup de grace [смертельный удар]
10. putrescence
11. to entrench
12. hold on to a spar
13. dissent
14. vigilante
15. reprehensible
16. unimpeachable sources
17. to bode good
18. upbeat reaction
19. reticence
20. escapades of
21. tenure
22. to the brim of his green fedora
23. in a futile attempt to do smth
24. epitome
25. to divulge
26. riveting
27. power-mongering functionary
28. to corroborate
29. horrid
30. staggering
31. stifling (stagnation)
32. a plausible theory
33. détente
34. a spacebridge [телемост]
35. razzle-dazzle
36. moderator
37. apprehensive
38. unequivocally
39. to handpick
40. a briefing
41. discernible
42. gruff
43. to allay (your worries)
44. the kiss of death for smth
45. to floor smb
46. a brief touch-and-let-go [we shook hands]
47. to clobber
48. consternation
49. not to cut the nitty-gritty
50. octogenarians
51. transgression
52. to be nondescript (alive)
53. to herald a new era
54. a commendable job
55. yell like a banshee
56. to telecast
57. to strike a chord
58. discreetly
59. bugaboo
60. uptight
61. to laud
62. restrained
63. cause célèbre [громкое дело, скандальный процесс]
64. to swivel
65. a scorching letter
66. unrebutted commentary
67. incensed
68. a turncoat [ренегат, перебежчик]
69. rebuttal
70. predicament
71. a negative backlash
72. an avalanche of letters
73. an infidel
74. omnipotent
75. inexorably
76. overhauled
77. to christen
78. a caveat to his proposal
79. foolproof
80. to get the boot (быть уволенным)
81. a new ballgame (поворот событий)
82. wriggle
83. an affront
84. unmitigated evils
85. to lump smb as being smb
86. to lionize
87. paltry
88. to defrock
89. warped
90. strangulation
91. an udder
92. a vestige of the slave mentalities
93. tortuous lane
94. a hunchback
95. to rebound
96. mind-boggling wealth
97. to slander

**Chapter 8**

Set phrases:

1. I sat there immersed in the music I loved so dearly
2. I could only cling to her as my last refuge, my only solace
3. with a questioning look on his face
4. time suddenly became compressed—it collapsed, it folded
5. with that in mind, . . .
6. . . . that, conditions being what they were, . . .
7. I am not saying that concern was without grounds
8. be held responsible for having OK’d my trip
9. to breeze through customs
10. I was in a state of shock
11. to corroborate their worst fears / I’ll corroborate that statement
12. it gives me the willies
13. the weather turned foul
14. to put the ship on autopilot
15. to fumble around with some switches
16. throngs of people all around
17. I was walking in a shell of silence, I was invisible to one and all
18. I loved the hustle and the bustle
19. only nobody looked; nobody batted an eyelid
20. a response that was greeted by the entire audience with a gasp of horror and disbelief
21. people don’t give the slightest idea what it means
22. to point an accusing finger at smb
23. to be more prone to lie
24. [something will happen] when the shrimp whistles
25. The Bible Belt (!!! Country studies !!!)
26. but I stimulated enough interest to be invited back for a second show on the following day
27. were my first in-the-flesh meetings with Phil
28. to be accused of bias
29. I have seen Phil at his best
30. I marveled at his insight, his intelligence, his honesty
31. but seeing it firsthand was something else
32. they sifted through the storm of emotions that swept me up and carried me, dizzy and gasping
33. in a mystical way
34. to come apart at the seams
35. a flood of memories
36. always a little aloof
37. a line that he is trying to peddle
38. they were not a source of concern because they fir the image
39. it is not because they automatically trusted me, far from it, but . . .
40. seven decades of anti-Soviet propaganda notwithstanding [!grammar!]
41. I saw how fear bred hatred and how hatred increased fear
42. I had not the slightest desire to say . . .
43. I was buffeted by the storms of my emotions
44. it took me a while to trim my sails and regain balance
45. I gasped the truth that . . .
46. in 1982, or thereabouts, . . .
47. but I refuse to accept it as normal
48. so I have chosen to take the easy way out
49. there were more violent upheavals in her life than she was equipped to handle
50. that romantic feeling , , colored my thoughts about her
51. there was still a trace of that aura about her
52. she was in her element
53. your father was denied entrance
54. I’m guessing as to what took place [!grammar!]
55. I take off my hat to her
56. she pulled herself together and buckled down
57. she was vain of her beauty
58. she was still oriented toward clothes
59. she had to learn not to stand out as being too different
60. things were no worse than they were
61. the daily grind of worry about job, housing, food supplies
62. most meaningful of all was her satisfaction in her son’s achievements
63. the letter of condolence
64. I keep it on my desk within easy reach
65. it is impossible to understand the changes . . . without recognizing the magnitude of the cold war’s impact
66. it stifled any and all
67. there was a modicum of truth in the charge
68. where small nations were viewed as pawns in a superpower chess game
69. in many respects
70. a casualty of the cold war
71. we all have our biases; I certainly have mine
72. rub my hands with glee
73. there was plenty of sweetness, more than I could tell you, enough to fill the heart
74. with the tangy ocean smell hard in your nostrils
75. the stench of urine heavy in the air
76. [he] stuck it under his arm, and, with a sly grin on his face, sidled out of the lounge

New words:

1. a stopover
2. an arrondissement
3. preposterous
4. refined
5. to vouch for
6. to trim his hair
7. expectantly
8. to confound
9. to bring smb up short
10. to shrug
11. infallible
12. émigré
13. a paw
14. hoarse
15. to defect
16. oppressive
17. to pelt
18. to buffet
19. slickers
20. to howl
21. to veer (right)
22. nether end
23. to come jutting up
24. succinct
25. to get hassled
26. off the air
27. sparingly
28. bowery
29. a moonscape
30. to prance around smb
31. to bespeak
32. dour
33. to shudder
34. devious
35. to fluster
36. frail
37. a zest
38. resourceful
39. to resent
40. to crack down on smb
41. expulsion
42. resilient
43. adversity
44. avidly
45. condescending
46. to precipitate
47. pervasive
48. to circumscribe
49. aptly
50. lotions
51. to be tantamount to smth
52. to come to grips with smth
53. to recede
54. deprivation
55. to affront to smth
56. to be warped
57. a quasi-colonial mindset
58. a disquieting similarity
59. abject misery
60. cobblestones
61. the buccaneers and the privateers
62. dope peddlers
63. to whisk from smth
64. to contort
65. lanky
66. to gesticulate wildly
67. a tentative shove
68. a tug
69. to latch on to smb
70. to be elated at smth
71. captive
72. come to terms with smth

**Chapter 9**

Set phrases:

1. to present the statistics, the facts, the statements to prove my case
2. to stand resolutely at the lectern
3. his wording was blunt and undiplomatic
4. the country’s most coveted title, Hero of Socialist Labor
5. not once, not twice, but a staggering three times
6. we all watched, riveted to our television sets
7. raising his voice above the tumult
8. in spite of the most adverse circumstances
9. only a handful of revolutions
10. but I have strayed from my subject
11. to wound up wallowing in the blood of the Terror
12. what a simplistic view of history
13. it bespeaks the belief that
14. today’s political cartoon
15. to cede the floor to one of the Soviet Union’s harshest critics—Alexander Zinoviev
16. a brilliantly erudite scholar
17. a zesty, biting humor
18. impeccable credentials as an anti-Stalinist
19. but I, adhering to the rule that the dead cannot be my enemies, changed the orientation of my critique of reality
20. freed millions of people from the trammels of private property and from the stupidity of village existence
21. but it means less than nothing to smb
22. condemned to live as a beast of burden
23. those who tilled the land and mined the coal
24. the line zigs and zags, but it has a logic, incomprehensible as it may seem
25. as the Russian saying goes, “If it were all ifs and maybes, mushrooms would grow in your mouth, and it would be not a mouth, but a vegetable garden”
26. when that dust finally settles
27. a slow, tortuous process
28. but then, one, oh wonder of wonders, . . .
29. but when reality forces its way in, we discover that we are no longer capable of dealing with it
30. like crack, illusions can kill
31. hard as it is for the individual, it is even harder for societies
32. like nature, human society has its laws and flaws
33. I no longer harbor illusions about smth
34. man does not live by bread alone, but neither can man live without bread
35. I believe that creation is happiness, that self-expressions is creation, that we create through work, and that work creates us
36. in the words of . . . , . . .

New words:

1. raucous
2. a demise
3. a percept
4. a gargoyle
5. a catcall
6. to flinch
7. an enclave
8. to relinquish
9. to prevail
10. futile
11. to subside
12. potentate
13. to flaw
14. an ogre
15. to incarcerate
16. to partake of smth
17. an aberration
18. to come tumbling down
19. hapless
20. opaque
21. a trench
22. savagery
23. bloodshed
24. to endorse (our illusions)
25. the keenest minds
26. to anoint
27. repose

**Afterword**

Set phrases:

1. to loom on horizon
2. but, were this to happen, it would breathe new life and new force into the Communist Party, a hope many of us would clung to
3. to turn back the tide
4. to for all the I’s and cross all the T’s
5. an archetypal Party bureaucrat
6. the fact that . . . spoke volumes about the people who . . .
7. to play a soothing and well-known tune
8. razzle-dazzle tricks
9. one can only marvel at this man’s unique talent at going into what is undoubtedly a no-win situation and coming out triumphant
10. and when I say the face, I mean by that its leadership
11. as I write these words, I can gain feel the nausea and the cold sweat breaking out
12. memorials had been toppled, swastikas had been chiseled into tombstones
13. while television made me the darling of some, it has, by the same token, made me one of the prime targets of Pamyat
14. several weeks have elapsed, but I still feel the rage welling up in me
15. what so upsets me is that I seem to have lost what I always was so proud of—self-control, balance
16. is that because what happened happened to me?
17. I don’t think that is the reason for my present state of mind
18. the question had almost become a litany
19. I had given it much thought
20. demonstrate, demand action
21. to illustrate my point
22. graves were disfigured, tombstones and statues were shattered
23. but that is where the similarity ends
24. a man whose moral stature and ethics would make him unique in any country
25. smth is smth to be reckoned with [с чем нужно считаться]
26. granted, politics is a dirty game, but is there no limit to filth?
27. at the tail end of the Mayday demonstration
28. Kriuchkov spared us the details [избавил нас от подробностей]
29. had no time to delve into any details
30. to be blared out by the media
31. a refusal to see the facts predicated on fear
32. he cocks his balding, middle-aged head at the audience and begins to read
33. oppression was a feature of normalcy, something to be expected
34. it was part and parcel of being Jewish
35. to attain the stature of a world power
36. slithered their way into every nook and cranny of the Soviet body politic
37. as the Russian saying goes, when you chop trees, the chips fly
38. I remember him pondering his answer as he sat in an armchair opposite me
39. Everything they say they interpreted through the prism of their own convictions—and thereby justified it, whatever it was
40. things which were all the more easy to accept
41. they had triumphed when the whole world had predicted their downfall
42. you have lived a lie
43. to come as surprise
44. the be taught the established rules of the game
45. being politically in sync was far more important that academic standing
46. to conform—that was the penultimate lesson taught in school and beyond
47. it’s no skin off your teeth, right?
48. they proclaimed them [ideals] from every rooftop
49. but that had been shoved through the looking glass and had come out the opposite
50. to accept this duty with a heavy heart
51. a tour of duty abroad
52. one and all
53. God willing
54. in the echelons of power
55. to wallow in its own filth
56. a vested interest in preserving the status quo
57. a conscientious effort to enhance Gorbachev’s programs
58. to thumb the nose at smth
59. which brings us to yet another negative
60. in a perverse way
61. as a nine-year-old
62. here are some telling data obtained from smb
63. the person who virtually single-handedly changed the permanent status quo
64. the dismantling of the Berlin Wall
65. so much for the first level
66. there is always a lapse in time between act and result
67. as he himself labeled it
68. this environment quietly blunts all that is human in us
69. much could be said pro and contra, but that is a subject for a separate article
70. but suffice it to look at the Soviet Union to say that, yes, . . .
71. that is what perestroika is up against today
72. [it conforms] and in doing so [begins to feel]
73. to be forced off the side of the road
74. how is that for bare necessities?
75. reflects changes in the average Soviet outlook—from unequivocally negative to outspokenly positive
76. the short-lived era of détente
77. I remember the contempt, not to say hatred
78. the piece of Soviet wisdom that tells usL a pessimist is a well-informed optimist
79. hence the turmoil, travail, and trauma
80. one of my all-time favorite statements
81. The tremendous pain we witness today is nothing less than a nation’s birth pains, the torture of an entire nation being born anew, breaking out of a dark womb into a new world full of light, breaking out with pent-up rage and fear and desire and doubts. We see a nation casting off its shell—one that was ugly, uncomfortable, but nevertheless, one that protected, keeping its dweller in and everything else out. Now the shell is going and the dweller feels threatened. All of the old rules have been proven false, all of the old values have been thrown open to question. Everything has to be learned from scratch, and to many the task seems not only formidable but impossible.

New words:

1. the beleaguered
2. cunning
3. the smattering of perestroika
4. to extricate out of smth
5. a chasm
6. par excellence
7. to bemoan
8. a plight
9. admittedly/ granted
10. to discern
11. unequivocal
12. cause célèbre [громкое дело]
13. to bootleg
14. to dodge
15. rabble
16. insolent
17. discrepancy
18. to plunk it down on a chair
19. to rummage through smth
20. doubly
21. cavalry forces
22. to decree
23. a fete
24. avid
25. barrel-chested
26. repudiation
27. to ape smb
28. to swear allegiance to smth
29. a springboard to power
30. to reign resignation
31. old trooper
32. abhorred
33. the rule of thumb
34. to resign
35. vague
36. to disdain
37. to designate
38. to pertain
39. a polster
40. to gratify
41. an egghead
42. strife
43. bloodshed
44. secessionist movements
45. perennial
46. self-contempt
47. smouldering
48. to honk at smth
49. to tailgate
50. glee
51. an aide
52. to snarl
53. to gnash their teeth
54. parade in rags
55. a decree
56. subversive
57. to nuke
58. resentment
59. to dwarf
60. one-upmanship
61. to repulse
62. puny voice