

Title: The Aesthetics of Abortion: Law and Family in *The Kukotsky Enigma*  
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Abstract:

This paper interrogates the complicated relationship between genetics, art and family legacy as crystalized around the central theme of abortion in Liudmila Ulitskaya's recent novel *The Kukotsky Enigma*. More specifically, I examine the ways in which the symbolic vector of abortion—the ending of a potential life—paradoxically both unites certain family members in the novel, even while it divides others.