Journal entry 1-31

Ivan’s story draws a lot of parallels for me with a novel by Chuck Palahnuick called The House on Paper Street. Ivan spends his life building a gilded cage for him to live in, so his life is consumed by material objects. Unlike the protagonist of Palahnuick’s story Ivan doesn’t lose his mind and become a crazed terrorist and cult leader. His discontent with the pregnancy of his wife is something I can relate to on a very personal level. Pregnancy pits one spouse against the other because at first only one parent bears any responsibility or discomfort. This is further exacerbated by a job that requires one person to leave the other and can be a point of deep contention. Ivan finds himself reaping what he has sown at the end of the story because his objects won’t save him, and his wife hates him. In the end he finds that if you make a golden cage to live in, you still die in a cage.