

The Frog Princess

Everybody

An old king lives
in a land far away.
He calls his sons
to talk one day.

One will be King
and needs a bride
someone to stand there
at his side.

How can he find
the perfect wife
for the new King
for all his life?

The King has a plan
to find the best one.
So this is the story
that says how it's done.

Narrator

There was a king
in a land far away.
He called his sons
to talk one day.

King

You need someone
to share your lives,
so shoot your arrows
and find your wives.

Narrator

The three princes leave
right away.
They must find their wives
on the same day.

Prince Vasily's arrow
lands near the water.
He finds his bride.

Natalia

I'm the Duke's daughter!

Narrator

Prince Fyodor's arrow
lands near his bride.

Irina

I'm the Merchant's daughter,

Narrator

she gladly cried.
Then the two princes
take their wives to the King.

King

Well done, my sons.
They're perfect, I think.

Narrator

Ivan shot his arrow,
but where did it go?

Ivan

Where can it be?
I really don't know!

Narrator

He looks for it north,
he looks for it south.
There! Near the lake!
It's in a frog's mouth!

Ivan

Oh, no! You're a frog!
What can I do?

Frog

Don't worry, Ivan.
I can marry you.

Narrator

Ivan takes the frog
back to the King.

King

You must marry her.
Give her the ring!

Narrator

The princes all marry
that very night,
and the King watches
to see which one's right.

King

How can I tell
which wife is the best?
I know how to choose!
They must all pass a test!

I want your wives
to bake me some bread.

Fyodor + Vasily

Our wives can do that!

Narrator

the two princes said.
But Ivan thinks:

Ivan

My wife can't bake!
When I go to the palace,
what can I take?

Frog

Don't worry, Ivan.
Just go to bed.
Tomorrow morning,
you can find the bread.

Narrator

Next day the princes
take all their bread
back to the palace —
but the King said:

King

Vasily, what's this?
It tastes very bad.
Give it to the horses!

Vasily

I'm sorry, Dad.

King

Fyodor! What's this?
It's hard as stone!

Narrator

The old King starts
to moan and groan.
But when he sees
Prince Ivan's bread,
he claps his hands,
and nods his head.

King

It looks just like
this palace here.
It tastes great, too!
Well done, my dear!

A beautiful carpet
is my next test.
Let's see which wife
can make the best!

Narrator

Ivan is worried.

Ivan

What can we do?

Frog

It's all right, Ivan.
I can do that too.

Narrator

Next day at the palace,
the three princes show
their wives' carpets.

King

Put them down in a row!
Put that one outside
because it's too small.
And that's for my horse —
it's not nice at all!

Narrator

The King sees the third one
and thinks it's the best.

King

This is much better
than all the rest!
Put this in the throne room —
for all to see
what a beautiful carpet
your wife made for me!

I've got one more test.
Just one little thing.
I want to see
how your wives dance and sing.

Vasily

All right, dear Father.
But we must have a ball.

Fyodor

What a good idea!
You can look at them all!

Ivan

Oh, no! My poor frog
cannot dance or sing!

Narrator

So back at his house,
he explains everything.

Frog

Just go to the ball,
and wait for some time...
when you hear a noise,
just say this rhyme.

Everybody

**That is just
my little frog,
travelling in
her little box.**

**Wait a while
and you will see —
a magic princess
there will be!**

**That is just
my little frog,
travelling in
her little box.**

**Wait a while
and you will see —
a magic princess
there will be!**

Narrator

Ivan is alone
at the ball at midnight
when a terrible noise
gives them all a huge fright.
The King turns white.

King

I hate such shocks!

Ivan

Oh, it's just my frog,
in her little box.

Narrator

A beautiful princess
appears at the ball.
She dances and sings —
she's the best one of all!

Ivan

Can this be
my frog princess?
I really hope
the answer's 'yes'!

Narrator

He runs to his house
and finds a frog skin.
So he goes to the fire
and throws it in.

Vasilisa

Oh, no! My husband!
What did you do?
Now I can't stay
here, with you!

Koshei, the Evil,
asked to marry me.
But I told him
that could never be.

The wicked wizard
cast a spell.
I'm Princess Vasilisa,
but a frog as well!

I must be a frog
for just one more day.
But without my skin,
I must go back to Koshei.

Narrator

Vasilisa leaves
and that same night,
Ivan starts his search
before it is light.

Deep in the wood,
he sees a bear.
He wants to kill it,
right then and there.

Bear

Please don't kill me,
my cubs need a mother.
I promise to help you —
one way or another.

Narrator

Ivan is kind
and lets her go free,
and later he sees
a duck near a tree.

He's very hungry.
He takes out his bow.
But as he does so,
the duck cries,

Duck

Oh, no!
Don't kill me!
My ducklings will not
have a mother.
I promise to help you —
one way or another.

Narrator

He lets the duck go
because he's so good.
But he's still very hungry
and hasn't got food.

He has an idea.
He walks to the river,
he catches a fish,
but it starts to shiver.

Fish

Please don't eat me!
You see, I'm a mother.
I promise to help you —
one way or another.

Narrator

He throws the fish back
and then turns to leave,
but then he sees something
he cannot believe.

Ivan

Look at that house.
It's got legs like a hen!

Narrator

The witch Baba Yaga
starts speaking then.

Baba Yaga

Wooden hut, look at me.
Turn your back to the trees.
Wooden hut, look at me.
I don't need any keys.

Narrator

The witch goes in,
and shuts the door.
The hut stands up
just like before.

Ivan goes near
and chants the spell.
The hut turns round.
He goes in as well.

Narrator

The witch is angry.

Baba Yaga

Why are you here?

Ivan

Give me some food —
and then you will hear!

Narrator

He tells the witch
about his wife.

Baba Yaga

Don't worry,
we can save her life.
Throw this ball of wool
on the ground
and follow it
as it rolls around.

Then soon you will find
the way to Koshei
and you can set
Vasilisa free today.

Everybody

**The ball of wool is on the ground.
It rolls along, round and round.
It will take you to a tree
near a castle. You will see!**

**In the tree there is a chest.
Get it down. Do your best!**

**In the chest there is a duck.
Catch it! You will have good luck.**

**In the duck there is an egg.
Take it quickly — do not beg!**

**Break the egg and then look in —
you will find a shiny pin.**

**Snap the pin into two parts —
this will break Koshei's heart.
The spell will break and you will see,
the frog princess at last is free!**

Narrator

The ball of wool
rolls to a tree.
He sees the chest.

Ivan

It's too high for me!
How can I get it
down from there?

Narrator

Then at his side
he sees the bear!

Bear

Watch me push .
this big oak tree.

Narrator

And as she does,
the chest is free!
As it falls a duck jumps out.
It's made of wood
and flies about.

His arrows miss.
Ivan's in tears,
and then
the mother duck appears.

Duck

I can catch that bird,

Narrator

the mother shouts.
She hits the duck
and the egg falls out.
There's a river below
and the egg falls in.

Ivan

Now how can I get
the egg with the pin?

Narrator

A fish jumps up.

Fish

Remember me?
You saved me.
Here's the egg! You see?

Narrator

But suddenly, a dragon's here —
it is Koshei and he comes near!

Koshei

I'm going to kill you.
Wait and see!
You can't escape
or run from me.

Narrator

But Ivan holds
the pin up high.
He breaks it —
Koshei starts to die.

Ivan

Princess Vasilisa
is how free
and can rule my country
next to me.

Everybody

**When you pick up a book,
don't just look at the cover.
If you open it up,
there's much more to discover!**

**Every person you meet
is quite a lot like a book.
So just take the time
to get a much closer look.**

**Everybody's special
in their very own way.
So listen to them —
they've got something to say!**