

Baba Yaga: The Wild Witch of the East in Russian Fairy Tales

By Sibelan Forrester

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Baba Yaga is an ambiguous and fascinating figure. She appears in traditional Russian folktales as a monstrous and hungry cannibal, or as a canny inquisitor of the adolescent hero or heroine of the tale. In new translations and with an introduction by Sibelan Forrester, *Baba Yaga: The Wild Witch of the East in Russian Fairy Tales* is a selection of tales that draws from the famous collection of Aleksandr Afanas'ev, but also includes some tales from the lesser-known nineteenth-century collection of Ivan Khudiakov. This new collection includes beloved classics such as "Vasilisa the Beautiful" and "The Frog Princess," as well as a version of the tale that is the basis for the ballet "The Firebird."

The preface and introduction place these tales in their traditional context with reference to Baba Yaga's continuing presence in today's culture--the witch appears iconically on tennis shoes, tee shirts, even tattoos. The stories are enriched with many wonderful illustrations of Baba Yaga, some old (traditional "lubok" woodcuts), some classical (the marvelous images from Victor Vasnetsov or Ivan Bilibin), and some quite recent or solicited specifically for this collection

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Editorial Review

Review

“Tales about witches have never been more popular, and Sibelan Forrester’s selection of folktales featuring the Russian witch Baba Yaga is a welcome addition to our stories featuring them. This is a solid contribution to the growing body of translations of Russian tales into English. A foreword by folklorist Jack Zipes adds to the quality of this attractively illustrated volume of folk stories. It’s great fun for readers of all ages!”

?Jack V. Haney, editor and translator of *The Complete Russian Folktale* and *Long, Long Tales from the Russian North*

From the Inside Flap
A beautiful illustrated collection of fairy tales about the most iconic and active of Russian magical characters

About the Author
Sibelan Forrester, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, is a professor of Russian at Swarthmore College and coeditor of *Engendering Slavic Literatures*.

Helena Goscilo is chair of the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures at The Ohio State University and coeditor of *Politicizing Magic: An Anthology of Russian and Soviet Fairy Tales*.

Martin Skoro, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a graphic designerand illustrator at MartinRoss Design.

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