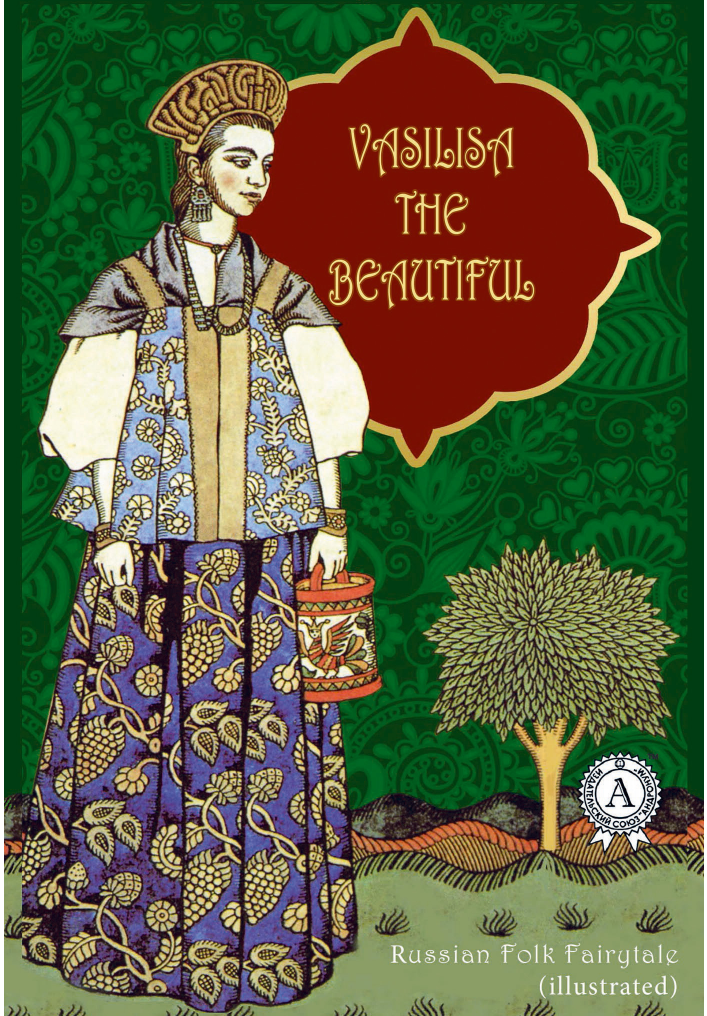
Alexander Afanasyev Ivan Bilibin




Russian Folk Fairytale
(illustrated)

## Народное творчество

# Vasilisa The Beautiful and Baba Yaga (illustrated)

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## Аннотация

Do you have something that someone special once gave you that seems to offer you strength and protection when you need it the most? In 'Vasilisa the Beautiful', the young girl, Vasilisa, was given a special doll on her mother's deathbed. Let's find out more about this story… 'Vasilisa the Beautiful' is a Russian fairytale that features a young girl named Vasilisa and one of the most infamous characters in Russian folklore, Baba Yaga. In this story, the eponymous heroine is pitted against Baba Yaga. Vasilisa the Beautiful is in a collection of Russian folktales known as Russian Fairy Tales or Russian Folk Tales . The stories in this collection were compiled during the 19th century by Alexander Nikolayevich Afanasyev, who has been considered the Russian equivalent of the Grimm Brothers.

# Vasilisa the Beautiful
# Russian Folk Fairytale
# (illustrated)
# Alexander Afanasyev
# Ivan Bilibin



Long ago, in a certain kingdom there lived a merchant. For twelve years he lived in marriage and survived only one daughter, Vasilisa the Beautiful. The girl was eight years old when the mother passed away. Dying, the merchant called his daughter to her, took a doll from under the blanket, gave it to her and said:

“Listen, Vasilisa! Remember and fulfill my last words. I am dying, and with the parental blessing, I am leaving you this doll;

always take care of it and do not show it to anyone; and when anything bad happens to you, give the doll something to eat and ask it's advice. It will help you out in all your troubles."

Then the mother kissed her daughter and died.

After the death of his wife, the merchant sorrowed and grieved, and then began to think about how to get married again. He was a good man; brides weren't the case, but most of all he liked one widow. She had two daughters of her own, almost the same age as Vasilisa, therefore experienced as a wife and mother. The merchant married the widow, but was deceived and did not find a good mother in her for Vasilisa. Vasilisa was the first beauty in the whole village; her stepmother and sisters envied her beauty, tormented her with all kinds of work, so that she would lose weight from labor, and blacken from the wind and the sun; she had no life at all!

Vasilisa endured everything humbly and with every day that passed she grew prettier and fuller, meanwhile, the stepmother and her daughters grew thin and frowned with anger, despite the fact that they always sat idly, like mistresses.

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