

Ivana and the Wicked Step Sisters

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Russian Fairy Tales, Russian 0090
April 16, 2003

Once upon a time in a land not so far way but not very close lived a beautiful girl of golden long hair and eyes of violet that enchanted anyone that looked into her eyes. However, for the past couple of days her eyes had been filled with sadness. She had just started her college years at the University of Pittsburgh which was very far from where she had spent her childhood days. On the first day of classes she looked around but saw no one she recognized. She felt lost in such a big school. Previously she had gone to small nit school where not only did everyone know each other names, but they also knew their parents names. One day she was walking by the student union and saw tables with girls sitting behind them advertising their sorority. She decided this would be a great way to be introduced to new people.

She hesitantly walked to the table and picked up a flyer. The girls automatically started talking to her. Soon they were laughing. When Ivana left the table she felt happy and accepted. This was the first time she had felt like this since she had arrived. That night she read over the flyer. For the next week, the sorority had “Meet-the-Girls” nights. Then at the end of the week, if they thought you would fit into the sorority they would give you a bid. It was then up to you if you decided to accept.

That next week was great. Every night she looked forward to the events the sorority had planned. She got to play softball and help cook in the barbecues. It was a lively time. She really liked each of the girls that were already members of the sorority. During that week she became very close with two of the sisters, Meagen and Cristin. She was even close to the sorority president, Kara. Kara reminded her of her best friend at home. Her name had been Angie. Angie and Ivana had spent so much time together that people were always surprised if they saw one without the other. That had been one of the hardest things for Invana in leaving home. Angie was going to go to a local college. When it was time for Ivana to leave for college they had spent that

night talking, laughing, and crying. But Ivana knew it had to happen eventually. What she didn't expect to happen was that two days after she had moved into college Angie was in a car accident that took her life.

It was time for her to move on though and this seemed to be the right step in the right direction. However, Ivana started getting scared. There were a lot of girls pledging to the sorority and they only chose a few of them. She wasn't sure how the other girls in the pledge class were doing. All she could do was hope. On the day they were to get the bids the girls were to stay in their room during the night. Then one of the sisters would knock on their door and offer them a bid. However, there was a chance they wouldn't knock which meant she was not accepted into the sorority.

That night Ivana rented a movie and cuddled up the sofa to watch it. She wanted to keep her mind clear of any worrying but it didn't seem to be working. All she could concentrate on was the ticking of the clock. More than a couple of times she would get up and open the door. She just wanted to make sure that she didn't hear the knock on the door. Finally there was only fifteen minutes left on for them to do bids. She had almost given up when she heard a knock on the door. She ran to it and opened it. Meagen, Cristin, and Kara were standing there with balloons in their hands and smiles on their faces. Ivana couldn't believe it until Kara started nodding and gave her a big hug. The next couple of minutes were filled with congratulations and laughter. That night Ivana slept the best she had slept since she had gotten to Pittsburgh. "Everything was going to get better now", she thought to herself. She wasn't just making friends for college but for the rest of her life. That night she slept with a smile on her face.

The next day seemed to float by. She saw so many girls that were soon to be her sisters. She even went out to eat with Meagen and Cristin. Kara even stopped by that night. They

watched some TV. When Kara was leaving she reminded Ivana to pack her stuff before the end of the week. She was to move to the pledge house. At the end of the week Ivana moved in. Ivana was calm. She thought the worst was over. She thought all she had to do was get the bid. She didn't realize the worst was yet to come.

The other pledges and her talked until the late hours of the nights. They then when to bed. Ivana was dreaming of the new and exciting life she was going to have when she woke to someone screaming her name. It was Kara. She didn't look happy at all. Kara told her and the other girls in the room to follow her. When they realized they were leaving the apartment, a girl asked if she could go and get dressed. Kara told her to know her place and to now ask questions, to just do. When they walked out Ivana could feel the morning dew on her bare feet as they walked through the grass. They then stopped at each of the sisters places and cleaned. It wasn't just any regular cleaning but hardcore cleaning, they had to scrub the bathrooms and even clean out the refrigerators. That night Ivana felt exhausted and confused. However, she would not admit to herself that these girls she liked so much could be so mean to her.

The days of doing degrading things continued. Meagen, Crisitn and Kara continued to act mean towards her. When she tried to talk to them about how hurt she felt they would only answer that it would be worth it in the end and that she had to prove her worth.

About two weeks before their pledging period was over everyone in the sorority was invited to one of the best known fraternity's for a party. That week was exciting as all the girls got ready for the big night. Ivana could not afford a dress but one of the girl's in the house offered her one to borrow. It was a beautiful shade of purple that made her skin glow underneath it. The night before the big party she laid out her clothes on her desk chair. She thought she would never be able to sleep because she was so excited, however, sleep soon overcame her.

A little bit later she woke to the sound of ripping. She sat up in the bed quickly and let her eyes adjust to the darkness. In the shadows she could see Kara standing beside her desk chair with shreds of clothing all around her. Kara didn't say a word, she just turned around and walked out the door. Ivana started crying. She couldn't believe this. They had been mean to her before but this was just ridiculous. She pulled the covers over her head and cried and cried until the morning's sun broke into her window. Even then she stayed in her bed. She never wanted to talk to anyone again. Her other pledge sisters came in to try and console her, but nothing worked. They soon left to go ready for the party. Ivana stayed and listened to their excited voices until finally she heard the door shut as the last girl left.

Ivana closed her eyes and tried to make herself sleep. She hoped that she would wake up and forget everything that had happened. As she lied there she heard the floor creak in her room. She opened her eyes out of instinct and saw her best friend that had died standing there. Ivana screamed and pulled the covers close to her chest.

“Wha...what....Angie, is that you?”, she shakingly said.

“Yes, Ivana, it is me.”

“Am I dreaming? Why are you here?”

Angie looked at Ivana laying on her bed and slowly responded, “I've been watching over you. I know things haven't been easy for you. When I saw what happened to your dress I started worrying that you might start distrusting people. I knew I had to do something so I came back to help you and to also let you know that I'll always be there for you. Never lose faith in yourself” With that Angie disappeared and laying in the chair was a beautiful, flowing white dress.

Ivana sat there stunned. It took the chiming of the old grandmother clock in the hallway to get her out of her trance. She realized it was late and ran to the chair to put on the dress. She

got ready quickly and ran out the door to catch the bus. When she finally arrived at the party she stood outside the door for a couple of minutes. She then took a deep breath and walked in. Everyone turned towards her. Ivana looked absolutely beautiful, almost like an angel. Ivana didn't know what to do, but suddenly out of the staring crowd a guy with dark, handsome features approached her. "welcome", he said, "My name is Charlie and I'm the president of this fraternity, but enough about me, you look wonderful." He then took her hand.

That night went by so quickly. Charlie danced with Ivana the whole night. At the end of the night they exchanged numbers. However, when Ivana was dressing for bed she heard his voice through the window. When she looked outside he was standing on the sidewalk singing to her. She smiled and climbed into bed.

That night Ivana was truly happy. She realized that she did not have to prove herself to anyone. Ivana would always have her friend Angie looking over her. Things had actually started falling in place and her so-called sisters had nothing to do with it. "Tomorrow", Ivana thought, "I will tell them that I no longer want to be part of their group. They never tried to make me feel welcome, but now I know that I don't need them."