

Nicole the Beautiful

Russian Fairy Tales, Russian 0090

4/16/03

Over ten states and twelve thrice cities there lived an auto mechanic and his wife. They had been married for fifteen years, yet only had one daughter. Her name was Nicole the Beautiful. Unfortunately, when she was twelve, the child's mother died. In the hospital, minutes away from death, the mechanic's wife called her daughter, and said: "Listen closely, Nicole. I am dying and will not be able to take care of you during your prime teenage years. Take this twelve karat ring and wear it in remembrance of me. Do not let anyone else wear it; if you get into trouble, polish it, and ask its advice. After it is polished, your answer will be inscribed on the inside of the band." Then the mother kissed her cheek and died.

After his wife's death his wife, he spent little time mourning and decided to find the next bride to be. He was a masculine male and had no trouble in finding a wife, but there was one certain widow in which he wished to marry. Because she was so old, she too had two daughters of her own around the same age of Nicole the Beautiful. The widow had been an experienced housewife and mother, and thought that she would be the perfect mother for Nicole. However, he had been deceived by her sexy auto mechanic jumpsuit and was not a good mother at all for Nicole. Nicole was the most beautiful girl in town and her stepmother and stepsisters were very jealous of her beauty. They tormented her by giving her all kinds of chores to do like cleaning the toilet, mowing the grass, and washing the car. In turn, the stepmother and stepsisters hoped that she would grow ugly from the grimy filth she had to clean, but instead she had become more beautiful and lovely from the cleaning products. Everyday the stepmother and daughters became uglier from their jealousy, although they acted like proper ladies.

How did Nicole the Beautiful survive? She was helped by mother's ring. Without it she could have never managed all the work. At night, Nicole would lock herself in her bedroom and polished the ring, saying: "be cleaned little ring and hear my troubles. I live in my father's

house, but I am never happy since my wicked stepmother is pissing me off. Tell me how to live and what I should do.” The twelve karat ring would shine as bright as the sun, engraving the advice for her worries on the inside of the gold band. In the morning, all the chores would be done so Nicole could rest. From then on Nicole led an easy life.

Several years went by. Nicole grew up and reached the end of her teenage years where marriage was more inevitable. The young men in her town tried every pick up line in the book, but no one would even look at her stepsisters. As a result, the stepmother became more jealous than ever and would not allow Nicole to date before the older sisters would. With every suitor that asked Nicole out, the stepmother would become angrier and angrier.

One day the auto mechanic had to leave home for a long time into to attend a Harley road trip with the other hicks in town. The stepmother then moved to a different house near the forest. The wicked stepmother was hoping that one day Nicole would meet the cruelest, biggest beast in the forest: Big Foot. Big Foot lived in a cave and never allowed any animals or humans to be near its home. Having moved into a new house, Nicole’s stepmother repeatedly sent her into the forest to gather berries or chop wood; but each time Nicole returned home safely, guided by her ring.

Time passed and summer turned into autumn. The stepmother gave work to all three sisters. The oldest had to bake cookies where the dough was already prepared, the second had to vacuum the living room, and the third had to wash dirty dishes. The stepmother then filled the sink to the top and shut off all the water. The Nicole worked very hard while her evil stepmother was gone, but had no idea of the plan about to take place. While Nicole was washing dishes, the oldest sister came over to talk to Nicole. As she played with her hair, her clip fell out of her hair and into the sink full of water. The oldest sister then refused to let Nicole find it in the dirty

water. As she searched for it, the oldest sister pulled out the plug, sending all the water in the sink down the drain. All of the sisters looked at each other in surprise, how would Nicole get her task done before her stepmother came home? The first sister said, “Someone must go to Big Foot and retrieve enough water for the sink and I don’t need water to bake cookies, so I will not go. Then, the second sister said, “I don’t need water the vacuum the floor, so I shall not go either. Nicole, you must go to fetch the water.” Nicole, however, was a smart girl and remembered to polish her ring before she left the house. She said to the ring, “Ring hear my troubles. How will I keep safe from Big Foot?” The ring then shined as bright as the sun and inside the ring was the answer to her question. The ring told her to find a squirrel with golden nuts. And so Nicole walked and walked until she reached a glass of water in the middle of the forest. Nicole then took a bite and suddenly fell ill the trees began to sway and an owl started talking to her. The owl said, “Go to the computer lab past the bookstore.” All of the sudden, Nicole woke up and realized that the owl had talked to her and kept walking.

Nicole then to her amazement saw the computer lab past the bookstore. As she reached the computer she saw a saw a mushroom with a sign that said, “Eat me.” Of course, she did again fell ill, but felt better than she had when she drank the glass of water. Slowly, a white rabbit started talking to her and told her to go to the waterfall near the one-legged man. When the forest stopped spinning she returned on her journey.

She searched and searched, but could not find the waterfall. As she continued to walk she saw a tall green plant next to the waterfall. This plant had, however, looked familiar to her. She had recognized that this was the same plant that was growing above her mother’s grave. She then polished her ring and asked it for its advice. She said, “Am I on the right path where I will be safe from all evil.” The ring flashed and read, “You indeed are safe, but take seven leaves off

the plant and feed them to Big Foot later. She took its advice, put the leaves in her pocket and read the sign saying, "Eat seven leaves and stop to rest." This time Nicole felt no illness at all. She was dizzy, but overcame her fatigue, when the one-legged man came up to her. He said, "I see that you have been walking for a long time; Come and dance with me and I will show you where the squirrel's golden nuts are. The danced the tango and a tree with golden nuts hung above her. He told her to pick a couple for she would need them later and she continued on her way.

A long or a short time later she reached the cave of Big Foot. As she entered she remembered the leaves in her pocket. She was scared but new that the ring would protect her once again. Big Foot jumped out from behind her, ready to hurt her but she jammed the leaves in his mouth and stepped back. The leaves had calmed Big Foot down and he was now peaceful. Nicole spoke, "Will you give me a pail full of water so that I may take it home and finish my evening work." Big Foot then replied, "These leaves have pleased me and I will give you water in return for something of value." Nicole then remembered the golden nuts from the squirrel and offered them to him. He found these very fascinating and gave her the water in return. She thanked him greatly and left in a hurry before the illness from the leaves worn off.

Nicole had made it home very quickly and safely and was happy to be home. Her sisters were amazed that she had returned home safely and they were also very bitter. Nicole heard the door slam. It was her stepmother coming home and she had not finished her chores. The girls had begun to fight for no apparent reason and the water retrieved from Big Foot had spilt all over the stepmother and her daughters. Nicole had no idea what was going on as she watched them melt away. For this water was no ordinary water. It was special and would burn any envious human being. But Nicole was not jealous and was saved from the water. Her father had returned

home to find his wife and stepdaughters dead and from then on Nicole and her father had lived happily every after.