

## **The Month Brothers**

*a traditional folk tale from Russia*

**Introduction:** Marushka does all the work. Helena and mother making Helena beautiful; inviting young men to dinner to try to marry Helena off.

**The dinner:** Helena talking with young man at dinner but when Marushka serves the meal the young man sees and falls in love with Marushka.

**Plan A:** Mother and Helena stay up late making a plan to get rid of Marushka.

**Implimenting the Plan:** Helena to Marushka: GO PICK SOME VIOLETS (it is January). Marushka is pushed out of the house into the bitter January snowy winter cold.

**Month Brothers I:** Marushka finds the Month Brothers. May moves the staff across the flames, and violets grow. Marushka picks violets and brings them back to the house.

**Plan B:** Helena takes the violets from Marushka, and stays up late that night making another plan to get rid of Marushka.

**Implementing Plan B:** Helena asks Marushka to pick fresh strawberries and Marushka is pushed out into the cold again.

**Month Brothers II:** January gives staff to June, who waves staff across flames, strawberries grow.

**Plan C:** Helena and mother split all strawberries (none for Marushka) and make a third plan.

**Month Brothers III:** January, September moves staff across flames, barren apple tree grows apples, but September only lets Marushka take two apples.

**Helena goes to Month Bro's:** After Helena has eaten her apple she, herself, goes up to the Month Brothers to get more apples.

**Month Brothers IV:** Helena rudely asks Sept. for more apples. January moves staff across flames. Big dark cloud, blizzard of snow, fire goes out, Month Brothers disappear.

**Mother goes to Month Bro's:** When Helena doesn't return, mother decides she'll go for her own apples, and mother goes out into the storm.

**Marushka left alone:** Marushka, alone, does all her own work for weeks, months, over a year.

**The Return of the Man:** Two springs later, one day, when Marushka is working in the garden, the young man (the one who'd come to dinner) comes up the hill, helps Marushka in the garden, and the two of them live happily ever after.