

The Firebird Story and Listening Map



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Prince Ivan is hunting near an enchanted castle, which belongs to a wicked magician named Kashchei the Immortal. While hunting, Ivan sees a magical golden bird—the Firebird. Ivan catches the magical bird while she is taking golden apples from a nearby tree, and she begs for her freedom. In exchange, the Firebird offers Prince Ivan a magic feather from her golden tail that will protect him in times of trouble. Prince Ivan accepts the feather and sets the Firebird free. Whenever Ivan waves the magic feather, the Firebird will come to his rescue. Meanwhile, the evil magician Kashchei is having a good time capturing beautiful young women and turning handsome young men into stone statues. Ivan sees a beautiful princess and 12 maidens outside the enchanted castle. Prince Ivan falls immediately in love with the princess. He wants her to go away with him, but the princess tells Ivan that she and her friends are captives of the evil magician. If anyone tries to rescue them,

they will be turned into stone. The maidens are forced to return to the sorcerer's castle, but the prince follows them.

Ivan goes into the castle to fight the magician. He is captured, and just when the magician is going to turn him into stone, Prince Ivan remembers the magic feather and waves it. The Firebird returns and makes the magician and his servants do a wild dance, forcing them to dance faster and faster until they all collapse. The dance makes the servants and the evil magician too tired to hurt Ivan. The Firebird then sings them to sleep with a lullaby. The Firebird whispers to Ivan to look for a magic egg, which is the source of all of the evil magician's power. The prince finds the egg and smashes it, and the spell is broken. The princess, her friends, and all of the stone statues come back to life. Ivan and the princess live happily ever after.

