

SLAVONIC LOVE STORY 2

(Version by Vladimir Djos)

On the side of a full-flowing impetuous river there lived a girl, Luba (**L**) by name. She was ripe for a great love, but only married, or disabled, or alcoholic men lived around her. Had she agreed to throw in her lot with one of them, her fate might have turned out to be different. However she did not want to squander her dream on substitutes.

Demistry (**D**), her ubiquitous neighbor, who offered her various candidates, also acquainted her with Sergey (**S**), who lived on the opposite side of the river. Sergey once saw her swimming in the river and wanted to take possession of her. He sent old Marya (**M**), the matchmaker, and she did her best praising Sergey and made Luba believe that Sergey was the only intended husband for her. The desire to be with him was getting stronger, but the river was flowing between them; besides, it was also the state border.

There was a narrow footbridge across the river. Konstantin (**K**), the frontier guard, was staying there on point duty and allowed only those he liked to cross the bridge. Luba asked him to let her go to the opposite side. But he did not like her and he refused. Then Luba applied to her ubiquitous neighbor Dmitry, for whom frankly speaking no frontiers existed. Dmitry promised to find the way for her to get onto the other side of the river. Days and weeks passed.

In despair the girl rushed to Colonel Petrov (**P**), the guards' commander and asked him to let her go to the other side. Colonel Petrov was surprised and asked her to explain why she was striving to get there. She told him about her love. It was night and her story reminded him of his youth, his unhappy love that destroyed his marriage and he ordered Konstantin to let Luba go; however, he wanted to think everything over first. Seeing that the colonel started hesitating, she rushed to the other side before he could change his mind.

On the other side of the bridge there was another guard, Eugene (**E**). He was deeply suffering as the day before his wife was unfaithful to him. Had Luba walked slowly he might have not noticed her. But she was running. Eugene stopped her and asked whom she was hurrying to

at such a late hour. She told him about her love. Eugene felt anger that Sergey was loved so much and that his own wife was unfaithful.

“It’s not fair!” – he thought. Eugene fell upon Luba and using force raped her. After that he felt a bit better and let her go. It was dark, no one saw it.

But Istratiy (I), who was making his usual evening stroll, heard something while walking past the bridge and even saw Luba putting her clothes in order. And he told everyone, including Sergey, in vivid colors, adding so many details to this sexual episode that it looked like wild lechery. Luba went to Sergey to explain everything hoping that he would understand and protect her. But Sergey met her with hatred. He said, “I needed all of you, I don’t want any leftovers! I would ask prostitutes to stay away from me!” Luba felt as if a heavy hammer fell down onto her head. She lost the future. Her life lost its meaning. While she was walking along the river, she recalled that she would have to pass by Eugene and she jumped, plunging into the river, and was drowned.

Who, in your opinion, is “the most guilty” out of the 8 participants of the tragedy described above?

Write down the first letter of the character’s name into the first cell of the table below:

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Now, who among the remaining characters is “the guiltiest”? Write down the first letter of the character’s name into the second cell of the above table, and so on, until all the participants of the tragedy are analyzed. (Write down only the first letter of the character’s name.)