**Rusalka Libretto  
English Translation** <https://www.opera-arias.com/dvorak/rusalka/libretto/english/>

**Cast:**  
PRINCE (Tenor)  
FOREIGN PRINCESS (Soprano)  
RUSALKA, a Watersprite (naiad) (Soprano)  
WATERSPRITE (father of Rusalka) (Bass)  
JEZIBABA, a witch (Mezzo Soprano)  
1st DRYAD (Soprano)  
2nd DRYAD (Soprano)  
3rd DRYAD (Contralto)  
GAME-KEEPER (Baritone)  
TURNSPIT (Soprano) [one who turns the spit over a fire in the kitchen to roast meat]  
HUNTER (Baritone)  
  
CHORUS  
wood sprites (dryads), the Prince's entourage, guests at the castle

**(0:00)**

**OVERTURE**  
  
**ACT ONE**  
  
***A glade at the edge of the lake, surrounded by forests in which, situated on the shore of the lake, stands Jezibaba's cottage. Moonlit night. On an old willow tree reclining towards the lake sits Rusalka, deep in thought.***

**\* (1) (4:19)**

**THREE DRYADS**  
***dancing on the glade***  
Ho, ho, ho!  
There's the moon above the lake!  
Curiously she is peering  
Till the bottom penetrating.  
Watersprite his head is nodding,  
Ho, ho, ho!  
His old wise and greenish head.  
  
Ho, ho, ho!  
Who is coming through the night?  
Watersprite, the moon is rising.  
Through your window she is peeping,  
Burglar wise she will be breaking.  
Ho, ho, ho!  
Into your silvery hall!  
  
Ho, ho, ho!  
There's the moon roaming around!  
With the waves the wind is playing.  
Watersprite from sleep arousing,  
Watersprite, the water clown!  
Ho, ho, ho!  
Bubbles rise from down below.  
  
***The Watersprite emerges and wipes out his eyes.***  
**THE DRYADS**  
Ho, ho, ho!  
Watersprite from sleep aroused!  
Watersprite wants to get married.  
Which of us will claim the merit.  
To have combed him, to have loved him,  
Ho, ho, ho!  
In his under-water realm?  
  
***They dance gaily around the Watersprite****.*

**(7:23)**

**THE WATERSPRITE**  
Welcome, you forest dwellers, to the lake!  
You, perchance, feel sad in the forest gloom?  
I, down below, have splendours never seen  
And quantities of playful goldfishes -  
Now quickly through the reed  
I'll stretch my hand, indeed,  
And seize one of the damsels  
And grab her by her feet  
And drag her down to me!  
  
***He tries clumsily to catch one of the dryads****.*  
  
**THE DRYADS**  
Watersprite, ab, hey-a, hey,  
Try to catch us if you may!  
  
Whichever you catch, dear man,  
Will give you a kiss for prize!  
But your woman, ha-ha- ha,  
Watersprite, oh, ha-ha- ha,  
She will twist your ears for that!  
***They disperse.*  
THE WATERSPRITE**  
Urchins, all of them!  
Look how they are running  
Uphill, down dale, across the fields -  
Well, they're young!  
  
**(10:28)**

**RUSALKA**  
Watersprite, my Father dear!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
Child, you've made me jump up -  
Are you trying to dry up  
In moon rays my fish nettings?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Watersprite, my Father dear,  
Till the waters claim me.  
Stay with me little while,  
Ban the sadness from me!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
How is that you're sad?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
You'll learn my story!  
 **THE WATERSPRITE**  
Sad down below, too?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Yes, sad unto death!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
Down there where gaiety reigns?  
Can't believe it! What's your tale?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
I want to quit here, get out of deep waters,  
I want to be human, live in the sunshine!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
Is that your wish? Can I trust my ears?  
To become mortal? To become a human being?

**RUSALKA**  
I learned from you the tales I did not know  
That they have souls of which we are deprived  
And that to heaven rise these human souls  
When men do die and vanish from the earth!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
As long as these waves serve you for a cradle  
Wish not for a soul which is full of sin!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
And also full of love!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
By eternal waters!  
Do you mean to say you love a human being?  
  
**(15:10)**

**RUSALKA (Aria)**  
Often he comes here,  
Reposes in my embrace,  
Leaves his clothes on the shore  
And into my arms plunges.  
Yet I'm only a wave,  
He can't perceive my being.  
I know that a woman  
I must be undoubtedly  
For him to be allowed  
To take me in his arms.  
To kiss me passionately  
Like I'm embracing him!  
  
**(17:00)**

**THE WATERSPRITE**  
Daughter, daughter! Night after night  
Because of you, your sisters will shed tears! -  
There is no help, there's nothing to be done  
Once you've succumbed to a human creature!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Watersprite, ah, Watersprite!  
He must have a chance to see me! -  
Tell me, tell me. Father dear,  
What must I do to reach it!

**(18:24)**

**THE WATERSPRITE**  
Doomed you are, doomed you are for all time,  
Made over, made over to a man!  
No sense to ask you to play down below! -  
Call on Jezibaba, the witch,  
Pitiful Rusalka pallid!  
***He submerges****.*  
Alas! Alas! Alas!  
***Disappears under the water.***  
**(19:12)**

**RUSALKA (Aria)**  
O, moon high up in the deep, deep sky,  
Your light sees far away regions,  
You travel round the wide, wide world  
Peering into human dwellings.  
O, moon stand still for a while.  
Tell me, ah, tell me where is my lover!  
Tell him, please, silvery moon in the sky.  
That I am hugging him firmly.  
That he should for at least a while  
Remember me in his dreams!  
Light up his far away place,  
Tell him, ah, tell him who is here waiting!  
If he is dreaming about me,  
May this remembrance waken him!  
O, moon, don't disappear, disappear!

**\* (2) (23:23)**

***The moon hides behind a cloud.***

That water is cold! Oh, so cold!

***She trembles with anxiety.***Jezibaba! Jezibaba!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
***under the water***  
Pitiful Rusalka pallid!  
Alas! Alas! Alas!

**RUSALKA**  
***with urgency***  
Jezibaba! Jezibaba!

**(24:07)**  
**JEZIBABA**  
***coming out of her cottage, looks around***  
Crying, sighing and lamenting  
Who's waking me before day break?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Jezibaba, help me, help me,  
From my captivity free me!  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
Hear I something? Smell I something?  
Speak up! Tell me who you are!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Rusalka, the water nymph  
Wants a potion, dearest auntie!  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
If you're a nymph, appear quickly,  
Show yourself up, lovely child!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Waves like fetters weigh me down.  
Water lilies hold me tightly.  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
Tear yourself away and hurry.  
Hasten to me, to the cottage! -  
Let her, wavelet, let her come here  
As soon as her feet touch the ground!  
***Rusalka jumps down and moves with difficulty toward the witch****.*  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
Little feet, carry her, little feet, support her! -  
Look, look, how her little feet know to walk already!

**(26:18)**  
**RUSALKA (Aria)**  
***falls to Jezibaba's feet***Jezibaba, help me!  
Your ancient wisdom knows everything,  
You've seen through Nature's mysteries.  
You dream about people on a dark night,  
The elements are within your might,  
The poisons of earth and the rays of the moon  
You know how to concoct and make into drinks.  
You know to connect, you know to destroy.  
You know how to kill and you know to create.  
Man into a monster and back again  
Your agelong wisdom knows how to transform.  
You make the nymphs tremble during the nights.  
For human ailments you prepare strange drugs.  
To us and to people in the far flung world  
You're both the element and the prototype man.  
Mortal and immortal, you are both! -  
Help me, ah, help me, worker of miracles!

**(29:50)**  
**JEZIBABA**  
I know that. I know that,  
That's what everybody says!  
Listen though, listen though  
Ere you touch the drug you demand..  
You've pearls, you have charm,  
If I help you what get I?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Take all that I have  
But transform me into a human being!

**(30:49)**  
**JEZIBABA**  
Is that all? Nothing more?  
That's why you came crying here?

Water does no longer hold you,  
Now you want a human body  
To be loved and to return love,  
To be kissed and to give kisses!  
I know that. I know that.  
That's what everybody wants!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Your wisdom guesses everything -  
Give me a human body and a human soul!

**(32:15)**  
**JEZIBABA**  
I'll do that!  
By the devil, yes!  
But you'll give me in return  
Your transparent water veil ?  
And should you fail to obtain love  
in the world.  
You will have to live rejected  
Cursed by the undersea world!  
Should the love be wasted which you now desire  
Angry water powers will drive you into mire.  
And even now you'll have to suffer, too.  
To all human beings, you'll have to remain mute!  
Do you want to be  
Mute to him whose love you seek?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
If I'm allowed to know his love  
My tongue I'll gladly sacrifice!  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
Keep him, keep him  
And know this too:  
Should with a curse you return to your native waters.  
Your lover also will find his end here!  
Forever he will share with you  
Your curse, eternal damnation!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
My human soul, my precious human soul,  
My love will counteract this magic!

**(35:00)**  
**JEZIBABA**  
Then let's go, quickly go,  
To my cottage come with me!  
Poisons shall we brew together,  
Rusalka will drink the potion.  
Then she will be as good as mute,  
Abracadabra! **THE FOLLOWING NOT IN FILM**  
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***They enter the cottage and a red glow pours out of its window. A stream of sparks bursts out of the chimney. In a while we hear the brew seething in the kettle. These sounds mingle with Jezibaba's incantations. The dryads come running out of the woods and frightened peep in through the window.***  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
***in the cottage***  
Abracadabra!  
Fog is lifting in the glade!  
Dragon's blood ? one droplet,  
Add ten drops of bile  
A bird's heart still beating  
And the kettle's brimming!  
Jump, my tom cat, jump and jump,  
Stir the brew a little bit!  
Abracadabra!  
There will be no greater pain  
This will make you human  
And you have to drink it.  
When you drink what's cooked in here,  
Your tongue will become wooden!  
Jump, my tom cat, ho-la, height!  
Pour that brew into her mouth!  
Abracadabra!  
And from now on not a word!  
  
***The hissing sound from the cottage weakens. The dryads have dispersed. The sky clears and horns are heard from the distance. Morning glow appears over the lake.***  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
***from the depths***  
Pitiful Rusalka pallid!  
Alas! Alas! Alas!  
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**(35:39)**  
***The horns became more distinct. the hunters are approaching. We hear the song of the hunter.***

T**RUNCATED IN THE FILM  
(37:00)-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**  
**THE HUNTER**  
***from distance***  
Rode a young hunter, rode and rode,  
He saw a white doe in the woods.  
She had a pair of deep-set eyes.  
My arrow, will it strike her down?  
Ride on, young hunter, do not stay  
And do not at that white doe aim!  
From her white body keep away!  
My arrow, will it strike her down?  
  
***The horns are sounded again****.*

**THE PRINCE**  
***emerges from the woods, bow in hand***Here she appeared and again disappeared!  
Uphill and down dale, through woods and fields  
This strangest of games is roaming about -  
And here now its tracks have vanished for good!  
And rippling with secrets and mystery  
These waters are inviting, luring me  
As if all my hunting passion should  
Cool off again in their wet embrace.  
My step wavers, strange nostalgy I feel,  
My tired hands refuse to carry arms.  
The hunt just started, yet I have enough,  
And that strange magic captured me again!

***The hunters approach****.*  
**THE HUNTER**  
***approaching***That was no doe hunter, stop!  
God protect your body and soul!  
Your heart is all as good as dead!  
Who was it your arrow attained?  
***The hunters emerge from the woods.***  
  
**THE PRINCE**  
The hunt is over, return home at once,  
Sinister magic haunts the woods today,  
Still stronger magic chills my heart! -  
Go home, my friends, and leave me alone!  
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**(39:00)**  
***The hunters depart. The prince sits down on the shore of the lake, but when he looks up he sees Rusalka standing before him. Rusalka left the cottage. She is barefoot and clad in a grey garment of a destitute child. Her beautiful golden hair streams down along heR body. She is mute.***  
**THE PRINCE**  
***jumps up***  
Beautiful vision, delightful.  
Are you a woman or a fairy tale?  
Want you to protect that precious game  
Which I have just seen in the forest?  
Are you come to beg her life,  
You and the doe are kindred blood?  
Or do you yourself, coming to me,  
Intend to be the hunter's trophy?  
  
***Unable to speak, Rusalka stretches out her hands towards him.***

**THE PRINCE**  
Secrets, perhaps, have closed your lips  
Or are you forever mute?  
If mute are your lips, I swear to God,  
They will answer to my kiss!  
Explain the mysteries that have allured me here,  
That have been calling me over thorns, over rocks,  
So that I finally on this blissful day  
Could feel the enchantment of your lovely regard!  
What is there hidden in your heart.  
If you do love me, tell it me.  
If you do love me, tell it me!  
***[Rusalka throws herself into his arms.-NOT IN FILM]***

**(42:50)**  
**THE NAIADS**  
***under the water***Sisters, one of us is missing!  
  
***Rusalka listens frightened****.*  
  
**THE NAIADS**  
Dear, sister, where did you go?  
***Rusalka trembles for indecision and fright.***  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
***under the water***Up hill and down dale, through the woods!  
  
**THE NAIADS**  
Sister, ah, sister, where are you?  
  
***[Rusalka clings to the prince.]***  
**THE PRINCE**  
I know you're but magic that will pass  
And dissolve in the rolling mists -  
But until our time expires  
O, fairy tale, do not vanish!  
My hunting ends - why think of it?  
You're the most precious of my does!  
Golden star shining in the night -  
Fairy tale mine, a, come with me!  
***He takes Rusalka away****.*

**ACT TWO**  
**(46:05)**  
***A park surrounding the Prince's castle. In the background a gallery and the banquet hall. In the foreground a pond under old trees. Late afternoon, dusk and later night.* TRUNCATED IN THE FILM**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
***comes in with the turnspit***Well then, well then, my dear boy,  
Tell your story to the end!  
What for are the festivities

Which are taking place today?  
Guests are swarming in the hall.  
There is bustle in the kitchen.  
On the tables, on the racks  
Utensils of every kind!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
We are in a hurry,  
Dearest Uncle Vanek,  
From dawn to dusk and through the night  
We work without respite or rest!  
Think of it, just think of it.  
Have you ever heard such a thing:  
The prince has in the woods  
Found a female creature ?  
And the chances are  
He will marry her!  
He has found her in your woods.  
In your deep, deep, gloomy woods ?  
Wherever he might have found her,  
I would be afraid of her!  
Utters not a single word,  
Does not have a drop of blood,  
Moves around like without sense -  
That would be a fine, fine bride!  
  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
All this seems to confirm  
What I've heard as rumour!  
Like it or not, brother,  
It will be as you say!  
Lord keep us from evil.  
For my reason tells me  
That in this love-making  
There must be some magic!  
My forest is haunted  
By sinister powers.  
Stranger still the creatures  
Which at midnight meet there.  
Any weakling runs the danger  
To be enthralled by the witch,  
At the dam the Watersprite can  
Drag you quick down to his realm.  
And who gets to see the dryads  
Naked, without skirts or shirts  
He is bound to lose his head -  
Lord deliver us from that!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
***with anxiety***  
Uncle, I am frightened!  
  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
I can understand,  
May the Lord show mercy  
To your sinful soul!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
Handsome used to be the prince.  
See how transformed is he now!  
He's no longer what he has been.  
Wanders around like bemused.  
Auntie Háta pays for prayers  
Offered for him day by day.  
And the parson as he learned it  
Came to warn him of the danger  
But the prince: „No and no!  
She stays here! And that is all!“  
  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
That's why there are noble guests!  
Why supplies are running low!  
Why I had, and with speed,  
Killed and brought here so much game!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
With a bit of luck, though  
Nothing comes of it,  
And another woman  
Can thereby profit!  
Auntie Háta told us all  
That the prince is inconstant:  
That his love's already vanishing.  
Another he has in mind.  
To a lovely foreign princess  
He began to turn his eyes!  
  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
God be praised, God be praised,  
Bless him, keep him, give him peace!  
In his place I without ado  
Would chase out that foreign girl  
Ere she drags me into hell:  
Run her out, that gold-digger!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
***suddenly***Huh, there comes the prince and the monster too!  
  
***He runs away.***  
  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
Neither I shall await her arrival!  
  
***He runs in an opposite direction. Rusalka, beautifully attired, but always sad and pale, is coming with the prince.***

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- **(51:30)**  
**THE PRINCE**  
A week now do you dwell with me  
And fairy-like you seem to be,  
In vain do I search in your eyes  
To understand your mystery!  
When we are married shall I get  
What love has long been seeking  
That you should burn with passion  
And be a whole, whole woman!  
Why is your embrace always cold,  
Why do you flee from passion?  
Why anxiously I tremble must  
When in my arms I hold you?  
In vain, in vain I still this feeling sad,  
From your embrace I cannot free myself -  
And though you be as frigid as you are,  
I must possess you, possess you at last!

**(55:30)**  
**THE PRINCESS**  
***comes through the gallery, sees the prince and Rusalka***It is not love, but well an angry feeling  
That another is where I should have been  
But if I am denied to be his wife,  
Neither the two shall live in happiness!  
***She comes forward****.*  
I wonder if the prince will recollect  
That though a lover he's also a host!  
***seducingly***  
Shall all your guests silently contemplate  
That happiness which you seem to enjoy?  
  
***She stands between the prince and Rusalka****.*  
 **THE PRINCE**  
***startles as soon as he sees the princess***  
Ah, your reproach is really timely  
And from your lips I bear it gladly:  
Even the bridegroom, beautiful princess,  
Is above all, only your servant!  
  
**THE PRINCESS**  
***regarding Rusalka***But say, this beauty, the lady of your heart,  
How can she bear it and not to say a word?  
  
***Rusalka regards her with pain and anger****.*  
  
**THE PRINCESS**  
***ironically***Or do her eyes have so much tenderness  
That only through them you communicate?  
  
**THE PRINCE**  
***embarrassed***Her eyes have though forgotten to remind me  
That as a host I became negligent.  
So with your leave I shall now compensate for  
What for a while I neglected to do.  
***Offers the princess his hand. Rusalka steps forward and firmly takes hold of it.***

**THE PRINCE:**  
Why are you embarrassed? Why are you trembling so?  
Now hasten to your room and prepare for the ball!  
  
***He takes the princess away.***  
**THE PRINCESS**  
***departing, to Rusalka***O, dress yourself in your most superb gown:  
I have his gallantry, yet you possess his heart!  
**(59:20)**  
***Rusalka stares after them as if she would like to restrain the prince from going, but then, sad and heart-broken, she departs through the gallery. Dusk sets in, night falls and later appears the moon. In the hall festive music is heard and lights are lighted. Festive milling is seen in the background, guests are arriving and forming circles. Later singing and dancing.***

**(1:02:15)**  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
***emerges from the fishpond and looks into the gaily animated hall***  
Pitiful Rusalka pallid,  
Caught in the web of humankind! Alas! Alas!  
  
No one in this world can give you  
What my own realm abounds in!  
No matter you are human now,  
An agelong bond is binding you,

Although a man seems to love you,  
You won't entice him forever!  
Pitiful Rusalka pallid,  
Caught in the web of humankind!  
Everywhere your sisters seek you,  
Try in vain to embrace you!  
When you'll come back to your sisters,  
Death will spread all around you,  
You will come back sick of life  
Eternal curse attached to you!

**(1:07:25)  
CHORUS**  
***from the hall is heard***White blossoms all along the road,  
Along the road all over,  
A boy was riding to his maid  
And the day smiled so brightly.  
Do not wait, my lad, hasten there,  
Soon you will attain manhood,  
When you will come back by this way,  
Red roses will be blooming.  
All the white blossoms were the first  
To succumb to the sun's rays,  
But all the roses fiery  
Adorn the bridal chamber.  
  
***Now and then the prince appears among the guests, courting the foreign princess and neglecting Rusalka.***

**(1:09:22)**  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
Pitiful Rusalka pallid,  
Caught in the web of humankind!  
Alas! Alas!  
Waterlily's blossoms white  
Will be your sad companions -  
No red roses will decorate  
Ever your bridal chamber!

**(1:10:42)**  
***Rusalka, desperate, runs from the hall and flies through the park to the fishpond.*  
THE WATERSPRITE**  
***surprised***Rusalka, daughter, I am here!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
***suddenly regaining speech***Watersprite, my dearest father!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
So I came to your lovely place  
To find you already crying?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Father mine, Watersprite, save me, save,  
A terrible fright has seized me!  
Woe me that I'd have betrayed you,  
Woe him who's known the humans!  
Alas! Alas!

Another's charm has captured him,  
Passionate human beauty -  
Stranger am I again to him,  
Rusalka from the waters!

**THE WATERSPRITE**  
He did reject you who loved you so?  
Now you must, you must persevere!

**(1:13:45)  
RUSALKA**  
O, useless, useless, useless it is,  
And emptiness is in my heart,  
  
And useless are now all my charms,  
If I am only half-a-man!  
He does not know me anymore,  
Rusalka from the waters!  
Her eyes are burning with a passion,  
That human passion damnable,  
I have been born of tepid water  
And passion that I don't possess!  
Accursed by you, lost to him forever,  
Of Nature's wild forces an echo dull,  
**Neither a fairy, nor a woman,  
I can neither die, nor can I live!**  
***The prince and the princess come out of the banquet hall.***

**(1:16:28)**  
**RUSALKA**  
See them, oh, see them! Here they are -  
Father mine, Father mine, save me, save!

**THE PRINCESS**  
***accompanied by the prince***Strange fire in your eyes is burning,  
Enchanted I listen to you,  
You're growing both sweeter and warmer -  
O, prince, say what does all that mean?  
Where has your chosen one disappeared,  
She that is without a voice and without a name?  
Where has she fled? She ought to see  
Her prince who is completely changed!

**THE PRINCE**  
Where did she go? God only knows!  
But you alone have caused this change -  
This summer night will not reveal  
That other charms have captured me.  
Call it a whim or what you will  
That for a while I have loved her  
And be a blazing fire where  
The moon's pale light ruled up-to-now!

**(1:19:50)**  
**THE PRINCESS**  
But when my fire will have burnt you  
And frightened all your passions wild  
And when I'm gone far, far from you -  
What will you do with that lunar shine?  
When you'll be embraced by the lovely  
Arms of that mute sleepwalker yours -  
Who will inflame your passions then?  
O, pity, pity, passion that!  
  
**THE PRINCE**  
***full of passion***  
And should the whole, whole world  
Disapprove of my longing -  
You are that blossom red  
Though for a moment only!  
It's now I realize  
What made my body dying  
When with the help of love  
It sought to become healthy!  
  
**THE PRINCESS**  
Why, only now I realize  
That suddenly I'm being courted -  
The bridegroom does not know himself  
Whether he courts me or the other!  
  
**THE PRINCE**  
***suddenly embraces the princess***What will remain of that love  
Into whose trap I fell?  
Its bonds I'll gladly tear up  
If I can but love you!  
  
***Rusalka, desperate, runs out of her hiding place and throws herself into the prince's arms.***

**(1:21:37)**  
**THE PRINCE**  
***mortally frightened***Your shoulders are as cold as ice,  
You, frigid beauty, cold and white!  
  
***He pushes Rusalka away.* CUT IN FILM**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**THE WATERSPRITE**  
***appears in full moonlight and shouts***  
Hasten into the other's arms!  
Rusalka's embrace you can't escape!  
***He drags Rusalka into the pond.***  
**THE PRINCE**  
***stupefied and not understanding anything***From the hand of this mysterious force  
Save me, oh, save me, oh, save me!  
  
***He falls to the Princess's feet****.*  
  
**THE PRINCESS**  
***in an outburst of laughter***Into the nameless abyss of hell  
Hasten to rejoin your chosen one!  
***She departs****.*

**ACT THREE**  
  
***The glade on the shore of a lake. Night is descending, the sky is overcast, yet later evening glow appears and finally, there is a moonlit night. Rusalka sits above the lake where she sat previously. She is all white and pale. Her hair has turned ashen, her eyes are extinguished.***  
**RUSALKA**  
Insensible water power,  
You've dragged me into the depth -  
Why can't I in your cold embrace  
Pass away, ah, pass away?  
Deprived of my youthfulness.  
Of my sisters' company,  
For my love for ever banished  
Grieve in these cold currents bleak.  
Having lost my erstwhile sweet charm,  
Cursed by my beloved,  
In vain do I seek my sisters,  
In vain long I for the world.  
Where's the charm of summer nights  
When the water lilies bloomed?  
Why can't I in this cold embrace  
Pass away, ah, pass away? **CUT IN FILM**  
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**(1:21:38)**  
**JEZIBABA**  
***comes out of her cottage***Ah, ah! Already you have come back?  
Well, you have not been away long!  
And your cheeks, they have turned so pale,  
And how you lament here, all alone!  
Say, have not kisses tasted so well  
And human bed failed to warm you up?  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Woe me, woe me, my dear auntie,  
All betrayed me and I have lost everything!  
  
**----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**JEZIBABA CUT IN FILM**  
Short has been your honeymooning,  
Long will be your lamenting,  
After kissing human lips  
Fasting will be infinite!  
A man is a man, outcast by Nature,  
His roots were severed since time out of mind,  
Woe him who after his love was longing,  
By his betrayal who now is condemned!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Auntie, my wise one, auntie, say,  
Cannot I, cannot I be helped? **CUT IN FILM**  
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**JEZIBABA**  
Your lover has turned on you, ceased to love you  
And now Jezibaba should again help you?  
After worldly pleasures, my daughter unwise,  
You would like to return to your happy sisters?  
Well, I have a counsel, very good indeed ?  
Whether you will like it, that's another matter!  
Only human blood can cleanse you  
From the Nature's curse,  
From the love which you were seeking  
In a man's embrace!  
You shall be back to what you were before  
Before this deception -  
Yet warm human blood is only  
The means of your health.  
Every pain will leave you,  
Happy you'll be 'gain  
If by your own hand, he will perish  
Who has seduced you!

**(1:25:08)**  
**RUSALKA**  
***frightened***Jezibaba, woe me, much you ask!  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
***offers her a knife***  
Take this knife and vow that you will obey!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
***throws the knife into the lake***  
You inspire horror, let me go!  
I'll rather suffer anxieties,  
I'll rather be forever cursed.  
All of my unrequited love  
All of my despair I'd rather live with  
But he, he must, must happy be!  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
***bursting into a wild laughter***

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Into silly human life you **CUT IN FILM**  
Have through longing been enticed -  
And now you seem to lack the strength  
To spill a drop of human blood!  
Mind you, man attains to manhood only  
When he has dipped his hand in blood,  
When moved by passion till blood spilling  
He became drunk with his neighbour's blood.

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To say that you wished to be human  
To impress him with your passion!  
You're just an empty water bubble  
A lunar, pallid good-for-nothing!  
Go then and suffer through all ages -  
Dry up in longing for your man!  
  
***She hobbles back to her cottage.***

**(1:27:36)**  
**RUSALKA**  
Uprooted and banished  
Into deep solitude  
Without my sisters must I go -  
Beloved, I know it, know,  
I'll see you nevermore!  
Woe me, a woe me hundred times!  
  
***She submerges in the lake.***  
**THE NYMPHS**  
***under water***You have left us for the world.  
You have fled from our games -  
Now that there's a curse on you,  
Don't descend to us!  
You are banned from our dance  
Who has been by man embraced,  
We'll disperse, yes, we'll disperse  
If you approach us!  
From your sadness emanates  
Fright into our joyful games.  
With the will-o-the-wisps you play  
At night on the moors!  
Entice people with your light,  
At the crossroads make them stray,  
With your flimsy, bluish light  
Lead them to their graves!  
  
At the cross-roads, at the tombs,  
You will find yourself new friends,  
To the dance of water nymphs  
Do not dare come back!  
***Silence. Evening glow in the west****.*

**(1:32:48)**  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
***brings in the turnspit***That you're afraid? Don't be silly,  
Other people used to come here!  
Knock at the door and say gently  
What you've been ordered to say:  
Our prince that sick is gravely,  
That he is out of his senses.  
That a hellish creature cursed  
Was on visit at his home,  
And that therefore Auntie Háta  
Begs Jezibaba's advice!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
***refusing***Ah, my legs are failing,  
Foggy is my eye -  
For the sake of heaven,  
Uncle, you go there!  
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**THE GAMEKEEPER CUTS IN FILM**  
Many times I've passed by here  
During the dark hours of night -  
You're a coward if there's one  
Who's afraid of an old woman!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
Last time when you came to us,  
Yourself have put fright in me,  
Don't be therefore surprised, uncle,  
That I feel frightened in the woods!  
  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
Idle talk, idle talk -  
I do overstate sometimes!  
Quickly now see to it,  
Get an answer from the witch!  
Rise up quick, go and knock,  
Ask the old hag for her wit!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
I would surely mumble,  
I have such a fright -  
Better yourself ask her  
What she thinks of it! **CUTS IN FILM**  
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**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
Blushing I'd be, blushing  
If you were my son!  
But to show you that I  
Have no fright at all!  
Jezibaba! Hola, ho-la!

**(1:34:48)**  
**JEZIBABA**  
***comes out of the cottage***Who is noisy? Who is calling?  
  
***The turnspit hides behind the gamekeeper****.*  
  
**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
Auntie Háta sends us to you here,  
To you, Jezibaba, for advice!  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
For that advice, for a bit of reason  
Does she send me this here boy for breakfast?  
***She touches the turnspit****.*  
He needs to be fattened as I see,  
Then he'll make a tasty, juicy roast!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
***defends himself desperately***  
Let go! Let go! Let me flee from here!  
Uncle, Uncle, she wants to eat me!

**JEZIBABA**  
***shaking with laughter***  
Ha, ha, ha, ha,  
Ah, you tiny dwarf, you,  
Silly creature, you,  
You would be a bad bit  
For my digestion!  
May the hell but swallow  
Your accursed clan!  
And now quickly tell me  
What you have to say!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
***with anxiety***  
Our prince is gravely, gravely sick indeed,  
He's under the spell of, of a mighty witch!  
He's brought her to the castle, gave her all,  
He did love her, I say, like he does himself.  
Easily she might have been today his wife -  
But the lovely witch has not waited till the wedding day.  
When her sway was firmly established,  
That unfaithful witch has suddenly disappeared.  
The castle is still now under her spell -  
The devil himself must have taken the witch to hell!

**(1:37:10)**  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
***suddenly emerges from the lake***Who, you say, took her?  
Whom, you say, she betrayed?  
Accursed the man  
Who has dispatched you here,  
You wretched creatures,  
You begetters of lies.  
It's he betrayed her,  
Subjected her to curse!

**THE GAMEKEEPER**  
***takes to his heels***  
Watersprite! Watersprite!  
  
**THE TURNSPIT**  
***follows close after him***  
Uncle! Uncle! For heaven's sake, uncle!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE  
*in a frightful voice***  
I'll take my revenge with all the might I have!  
  
**JEZIBABA**  
Ha, ha, ha, ha! Ha, ha, ha, hal  
  
***She hobbles back to her cottage. The evening glow vanished, night has fallen and the moon is rising. Dryads dance in the glade.***

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 **CUT IN THE FILM**  
**THE Ist DRYAD**  
***dancing***  
Hair, golden hair have I,  
Glow worms like to whirl around them at night,  
My alabaster hand has now untied my hair,  
And the moon is combing them with silver rays.  
  
**THE 2nd DRYAD**  
***dancing***Feet, white feet have I,  
Using them I have run all around the glade,  
I've been running barefoot and dew has washed my feet  
And the moon has shod them with slippers of gold.  
  
**THE 3rd DRYAD**  
***dancing, together with the other***  
White, my body is white,  
In the glade it glistens with all loveliness,  
Wherever I move to, there my lovely body  
Finds beautiful dresses made of moonlight beams.  
  
**THE DRYADS**  
Let us dance, sisters, ah, let us dance  
In the fine nocturnal breeze!  
It's about time for the Watersprite  
To call us up from the reeds!  
  
***Seeing the Watersprite****.*  
  
There he is, there he is  
Already mending his nets!  
  
***dancing around him***  
  
Watersprite, ah, heya, hey.  
Try to catch us if you may!  
Whichever you catch, dear man,  
Will give you a kiss for prize.  
But your woman, ha-ha-ha,  
Watersprite, ah, ha-ha-ha,  
She will twist your ears for that!  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
***sadly***  
Stop your gaily romping,  
My dear children golden-haired -  
Our native water  
Alas has been soiled by man.  
  
**THE DRYADS**  
***stand still***  
What is it that mars our gay dance?  
Tell your tale, Watersprite, tell your tale! **CUT IN THE FILM**  
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**(1:38:58)**  
**THE WATERSPRITE**  
At the deep bottom laments  
Rejected by her sisters  
Pitiful Rusalka pallid!  
Alas! Alas! Alas!  
  
***He submerges. The moon hides behind clouds****.*  
  
**THE 1st DRYAD**  
Tears are rising to my eyes,  
Suddenly I feed cold.  
  
**THE 2nd DRYAD**  
Behind clouds of grey and black  
The moon has now hidden.  
  
**THE 3rd DRYAD**  
Darkness oppresses my head.  
Sisters, sisters, let us flee!  
***They disperse****.*

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 **CUT IN FILM**  
**THE PRINCE**  
***like a madman runs out of the wood***  
Where are you, my white doe?  
Fairy tale! My silent image!  
To my lamentations, to my constant searching  
Will there nevermore be an end?  
Day after day be longing urged,  
Breathless I seek you in the woods,  
When night approaches I sense you there,  
Look for you in the moonlit mist.  
Search for you all over the earth -  
Fairy tale, fairy tale, come to me!  
  
***He stops.* CUT IN FILM**  
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**(1:40:56)**  
Here it has happened! Speak, silent forests!  
Sweet apparition, beloved. where are you?  
By all that still lives in my heart  
I entreat both heaven and earth,  
I entreat God and the demons too -  
Speak to me, speak up, where are you?  
***The moon emerges from the clouds.***  
**RUSALKA**  
***appears in the moonlight above the lake***  
Do you still know me, my love?  
Do you still recall me to mind?  
  
**THE PRINCE** ***startled***If you are dead now, kill me quick!  
If you are alive, save me, save!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
Living nor dead I, woman nor fairy,  
Accursed I wander through the night!  
In vain in your arms have I been dreaming  
My poor love, my poor, wretched love -  
Once in the past I have been your sweetheart,  
Now I can only be your death!  
  
**THE PRINCE**  
Without you I can nowhere live -  
Can you, oh, can you forgive me?  
  
**RUSALKA (Aria)**  
Why did you hug me in your arms,  
Why did your lips lie to me?  
Now I'm but a lunar vision  
Destined ever to torment you.  
Now I am luring you at night,  
Dishonoured is my lap,  
With the will o' the wisps I must  
Drag you down to the depths.  
You sought after passion  
Which I know I have never had -  
But if I give you a kiss now,  
You are lost forever!

**THE PRINCE**  
***staggering towards her***  
Kiss me, just kiss me, give me peace,  
Never shall I return to the world,  
Kiss me if need be till I'm dead!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
And you have given me so much -  
Why did you, my dearest, betray me?  
Do you know, my lad, do you know,  
From my embrace there's no return,  
In my embrace you'll find your death?  
  
**THE PRINCE**  
All that I'll give you once again -  
Kiss me, but kiss me thousand times!  
Don't want to return, let me die,  
Kiss me, just kiss me, give me peace,  
I don't think, I don't think of the past!  
  
**RUSALKA**  
***embraces him and kisses him***My love will freeze all sentiments -  
I have to, have to make you die,  
Yet I must take you into my arms!  
  
**THE PRINCE**  
Kiss me, just kiss me, give me peace!  
Your kisses, 1 know, will redeem my sin -  
I'm dying happy in your embrace!  
***He dies****.*  
  
**THE WATERSPRITE** ***deep under water***In vain shall he die in your arms,  
In vain is any sacrifice,  
Pitiful Rusalka pallid!  
Alas! Alas! Alas!

**RUSALKA**  
***kisses the dead prince for the last time***Because you loved, because you were good,  
Because you were humanly fickle,  
Because of all which makes up my fate –

human soul, God have mercy on you!

[I did get to see him, so

I am content! I am happy!]-subtitle in Film, but not in libretto