

THE TSAR'S BRIDE

Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Fueled by his jealous love for Marfa, the merchant's daughter, Gryaznoy—one of Ivan the Terrible's diabolical bodyguards—orders the court physician, Bomelius, to brew him a potion designed to destroy Marfa's memory and her love for Lykov, her intended husband. After overhearing Gryaznoy's evil plans, Lyubasha, Gryaznoy's forsaken mistress, persuades the physician to give Marfa a potion to ruin her beauty instead! When Ivan the Terrible chooses Marfa as his bride, her physical and mental health deteriorates; however, in the end both Gryaznoy and Lyubasha pay for their wicked deeds.