

There lives a Tsar Berendey. He has got three sons. The youngest son's name is Ivan. The Tsar has a wonderful garden. There grows a tree with golden apples. Someone starts coming to the Tsar's garden. He steals the apples. The Tsar becomes very upset about it. He sends some guards there.

The guards can't track the thief. The Tsar stops eating and drinking. He becomes sad.

wonderful	[ˈwʌndəfʊl]	прекрасный
garden	[ɡɑːdn]	сад
apple	[æpl]	яблоко
steal	[sti:l]	воровать
upset	[ʌpˈset]	расстроенный
track	[træk]	выследить
thief	[ti:f]	вор



His sons try to help him:

“Dear Father, don’t be sad! We will guard the garden!”

The oldest son says: “Today is my turn, I’ll go to watch over the garden.”

guard	[gɑ:d]	охранять
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turn	[tɜ:n]	очередь
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And the oldest son goes to guard the garden. In the evening, there isn't a trace of anyone. He lies down on the soft grass and falls asleep. In the morning the Tsar asks him:

“Well, tell me, did you see the thief?”

“No, Father, all night I didn't sleep, my eyes never closed, but I didn't see anything.”

The next day the middle son goes to stand guard. He sleeps the whole night, but in the morning says that he didn't see the thief.

At last it's time for the youngest son to stand guard. And Ivan goes to guard his father's garden. It's getting dark. He is sitting there afraid. But he doesn't want to lie down on the grass. He knows he may fall asleep.

Midnight comes. Suddenly he sees the light in the garden. It gets brighter and brighter. All the garden is bright now!

trace	[treɪs]	след
soft	[sɒft]	мягкий
close	[kləʊz]	закрывать
midnight	['mɪdnɑɪt]	полночь
brighter	[braɪtə]	светлее

He sees the Firebird! It's sitting on the apple tree and It's eating golden apples! Ivan Tsarevich comes up quietly to the apple tree... And he grabs the bird by the tail. The Firebird flaps its wings and flies away. But it leaves one feather in Ivan's hand.

In the morning Ivan Tsarevich goes to his father.

"Well, my dear Vanya, did you see the thief?"

"Dear Father, I did. Here is a feather of a very clever thief. Dear Father, It's the Firebird!"

The Tsar takes the feather, calls for the other sons and says:

"My sons, you have to find the Firebird. Go about the wide world, to places unknown, where you can find the Firebird!"

Firebird	[ˈfaɪəbɜːd]	Жар-птица
quietly	[ˈkwaɪətli]	бесшумно
grab	[græb]	хватать
tail	[teɪl]	хвост
flap	[flæp]	взмахнуть
feather	[ˈfeðə]	перо
clever	[ˈklevə]	умный



The children bow to their father. They saddle good horses and set out on their way. The oldest son goes in one direction, the middle one in another. Ivan Tsarevich goes in the third direction.

Ivan goes for a long time. He gets very tired. He gets down from his horse, lies down on the grass and falls asleep.

A long time or a short time passes. Ivan Tsarevich wakes up and sees a stone. "He who goes straight will be hungry and cold. He who passes to the right will be safe, but his horse shall die. He who passes to the left will be killed, but his horse will be safe." Ivan decides to go to the right and rides for three days. Suddenly

bow	[baʊ]	кланяться
saddle	[sædl]	седлать
direction	[dɪ'rekʃn]	направление
fall asleep	[fɔ:l ə'sli:p]	засыпать
stone	[stəʊn]	камень
straight	[streɪt]	прямо
hungry	['hʌŋɡrɪ]	голодный



a grey wolf appears out of nowhere and attacks the horse. Ivan is safe and sound but he has got no horse now! Ivan is very sad but he continues

attack

[ə'tæk]

нападать

continue

[kən'tɪnju:]

продолжать

to go. He has to find the Firebird! He walks for the whole day and becomes very tired. He sits down on the grass.

The Grey Wolf suddenly appears again.

“What, Ivan Tsarevich, sitting there grieving, your head hanging?”

“How can I not grieve, Grey Wolf? I haven’t got a horse. You ate it.”

“I’m sorry I ate your horse,” the Wolf says, “and made you go all this way on foot. I’ll take you where you want to go!”

Ivan tells the Wolf that he needs to find the Firebird.

suddenly	[ˈsʌdnli]	вдруг
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appear	[əˈpiə]	появляться
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What, Ivan Tsarevich, sitting there grieving, your head hanging? —

Что, Иван-царевич, сидишь пригорюнился, голову повесил?

again	[əˈgeɪn]	снова
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grieve	[ɡri:v]	огорчаться
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made	[meɪd]	заставил
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“So, and it will be, I ate your horse, and I will serve you. It’s only right! I alone know where the Firebird lives. Jump on my back and hold on tight.”

He climbs on the Wolf’s back and they run like a flash.

serve

[sɜ:v]

ПОСЛУЖИТЬ

flash

[flæʃ]

МОЛНИЯ

For a long time, or a short time, they fly to the palace of Afron. The Grey Wolf says:

“Listen to me, Ivan Tsarevich, and remember. Crawl over the wall. Don’t be afraid. It’s a lucky hour — all the guards are asleep. You will see in the window a golden cage. The Firebird is in this cage. Take the bird but don’t touch the cage!”

Ivan Tsarevich crawls over the wall, sees the window. There is the golden cage! And in the cage sits the Firebird! He takes the bird and looks at the cage.

“Oh, such a golden cage! How can I not take it!”

palace	[ˈpæliːs]	дворец
crawl	[krɔ:l]	забраться
cage	[keɪdʒ]	клетка
touch	[tʌtʃ]	касаться
wall	[wɔ:l]	стена
window	[ˈwɪndəʊ]	окно

Oh, such a golden cage! How can I not take it! — Ах, какая золотая клетка! Как такую не взять!



He remembers what the Grey Wolf said to him. He only touches the cage but all the guards wake up. They grab Ivan Tsarevich and carry him to Tsar Afron.

Tsar Afron is very angry and says:

remember	[rɪ'membə]	ПОМНИТЬ
but	[bʌt]	НО
wake up	[weɪk ʌp]	просыпаться
carry	['kæri]	ВЕСТИ
angry	['æŋɡri]	разгневанный

“Who are you?”

“I am Ivan Tsarevich, the son of Tsar Berendey,” says Ivan.

“Ah, what a shame! A tsar’s son steals from other people!” cries Tsar Afron.

“But what about your bird? It flies into our garden and destroys it!” says Ivan Tsarevich.

“You can always ask. You don’t have to steal! Well, all right, do me a service. There lives Tsar Kusman. He has got a horse with a golden mane. Bring him to me, then I will give you the Firebird with the cage.”

Ivan Tsarevich goes to the Grey Wolf. But the Wolf says to him:

shame	[ʃeɪm]	позор
destroy	[dɪs'trɔɪ]	разорять
service	['sɜ:vɪs]	услуга, служба
mane	[meɪn]	грива
give	[gɪv]	давать
with	[wɪð]	вместе; с