

FEMININITY AND SLAVIC SPIRITS



Artwork by Katrina Sesum

An independent unclean dead, the rusalki is a revenant whose death had some relation to marriage. As a spirit, she is free from the societal need for marriage and an interesting icon of femininity and sexuality. She appears as a beautiful young woman and is known to seduce and kill men, even tickling them to death.

The female spirits of Slavic folklore are informative symbols of liberated femininity. Before patriarchal shifts in society, figures like the rusalki and Baba Yaga were likely influential goddess figures. Still, they remain free, unbound women who are powerfully connected to the wilderness.

Baba Yaga is another danger to anyone wandering the woods. She is a powerful sorceress and protector of nature. She is a goddess of earth or death, and a frightening witch figure, which were feared in medieval society.



Artwork by Ksenia Svincova