

Babushka

SCENE 1 Outside Babushka's House

[Enter VILLAGERS, meeting and greeting in a dance.]

RUSSIAN VILLAGERS DANCE (© Track 1 / 14)

SCENE 1 Inside Babushka's House

NARRATOR 1 Long ago, in a Russian village, there lived a little old woman called Babushka. She was as round and kindly as a warm plum pudding.

[Enter BABUSHKA, sweeping and dusting.]

NARRATOR 2 While everyone else was dancing, she would sweep, dust and polish from sunrise to starshine.

NARRATOR 1 Her house was the cleanest in the whole of Russia.

BABUSHKA *(proudly)* My house is the cleanest in the whole of Russia!

[MOUSE, SPIDER & FLY enter (or two of each). At the end of each verse, BABUSHKA chases them off with her broom.]

YOU'LL NEVER FIND A MOUSE (© Track 2 / 15)

ALL *(reciting)*

YOU'LL NEVER FIND A MOUSE
IN BABUSHKA'S HOUSE.
IT'S FAR TOO CLEAN
FOR A MOUSE TO BE SEEN!
FAR TOO CLEAN
FOR A MOUSE TO BE SEEN!
BYE, BYE MOUSE!
BYE, BYE MOUSE!

←
MOUSE tries to creep past BABUSHKA. On 'bye, bye' he gets swept away. Goes to stand to one side, looking afraid.

YOU'LL NEVER FIND A SPIDER
SITTING DOWN BESIDE HER.
IT'S FAR TOO CLEAN
FOR A SPIDER TO BE SEEN!
FAR TOO CLEAN
FOR A SPIDER TO BE SEEN!
BYE, BYE SPIDER!
BYE, BYE SPIDER!

←
SPIDER tries to creep past BABUSHKA. On 'bye, bye' he gets swept away. Goes to join MOUSE, looking afraid.

YOU'LL NEVER FIND A FLY
BUZZING, BUZZING BY.
IT'S FAR TOO CLEAN

←
FLY tries to fly past BABUSHKA. On 'bye, bye' he gets swept away. Goes to join MOUSE & SPIDER, looking afraid.

FOR A FLY TO BE SEEN!
FAR TOO CLEAN
FOR A FLY TO BE SEEN!
BYE, BYE FLY!
BYE, BYE FLY!

YOU'LL NEVER FIND *(clap, clap)* ('sliced' as if a job is finished)
A SPECK OF DUST. *(clap, clap)*
BABUSHKA CLEANS *(clap, clap)*
FROM DAWN 'TIL DUSK!

*[BABUSHKA keeps cleaning, her back to SPIDER,
MOUSE & FLY.]*

FLY *(sadly, spreading arms)* Why does Babushka clean so much?

MOUSE *(sadly shaking head)* There are no crumbs for us to eat ...

SPIDER *(crossly)* It's so clean and tidy, we've got nowhere to hide!

FLY/MOUSE/SPIDER *(very sadly)* She hates us!

ALL Ahh!

*[BABUSHKA notices FLY, MOUSE & SPIDER again
and chases them away with her broom.]*

BABUSHKA Shoo! Shoo! You horrible dirty things!

*[BABUSHKA moves around miming cleaning activities,
and continues this throughout the following song,
making her actions match the words. The CHORUS
can mime the same activities.]*

NARRATOR 1 Babushka kept busy all the time because she had an empty place
in her heart.

NARRATOR 2 Poor Babushka. She was busy but she wasn't happy.

BABUSHKA (Empty Heart) (© Track 3 / 16)

BABUSHKA. BABUSHKA.
SHE HIDES AN EMPTY PLACE IN HER HEART.
(REPEAT)

SWEEPING, SWEEPING,
SWEEPING ALL DAY LONG.
SHE'S NO TIME TO STOP AND THINK,
SWEEPING ALL DAY LONG.

DUSTING, DUSTING,
DUSTING ALL DAY LONG.
SHE'S NO TIME TO STOP AND THINK,
DUSTING ALL DAY LONG.