

## WISHES

Maria was mad at Nadia. If you didn't know them, you'd think Nadia was a monster. But she's only Maria's niece.

Among other sins, Nadia had told Maria that when Maria dies Nadia will take her tea set. The set was colorful, for tea, in white, green and gold.

Maria was always saying that it should be the way some very smart man had said, put the graveyard on the square, so everyone knows what's coming to them. Maria was seventy plus.

Nadia was thirtyish. And she had no children. Neither did Maria.

She didn't take her tea set. Because she died first.

Nadia died first. At the funeral in St. Nicolas, during the meal after the burial, there was a couch fixed like a coffin or like a corpse, and on the chest there was a small pot of water. Or, was it boiled wheat? Like hands folded on the chest.

I think Maria was at the funeral as well. Or maybe not.

What matters is, she kept her tea set.

I took it recently. It was dusty.

She wasn't buried on the square. But, at least she kept the tea set till the end.