

New ruler

JANUARY 2023



2025: after its disastrous special military operation, Russia has lost much of its power, to the point that several bordering countries have taken advantage of the situation to claim territories they have long hoped to regain.

One of the most overlooked of such territories, the Sakhalin Island, lays north of the Japanese archipelago and has been claimed by Japan for a long time. After many decades, Japan can finally restart some mild imperialism and extend its territory northwards. This shift in mentality is reflected by a new political party taking power in the country, focused on rejecting any Western influence and aligning itself with the glorious tradition of the Imperial Japan of the previous centuries.

Yelena, as the only daughter of the former governor of the former Sakhalin Oblast, is in a very difficult situation. Her father has been imprisoned by Japanese authorities and replaced by a Japanese bureaucrat as the governor of the newly created Karafuto Prefecture, replacing the old Russian oblast. The young woman begs for mercy and implores the Japanese to spare her. The new authorities however, realise she is too powerful of a symbol of the Russian rule and need to prevent her from possibly becoming a symbol of resistance of the Russian minority. They decide therefore to use her to send a message to the remaining Russian population in the island.



The new administration of the island summons Yelena to inform her about their plans. "We have decided to spare you from prison as long as you are willing to collaborate with us."

Glad to hear about that, Yelena nods and tells the translator she is indeed willing to collaborate with the new administration if that means that the Russian population of the island would be spared from any violence.

"Sure, we are not barbarians, we simply need you to send a clear message: Japanese culture is here to stay, better adapt to it as quickly as possible. You, young lady, will be the new face of Karafuto!"

"I have no choice but to agree to your conditions obviously" - the young woman replies, sounding defeated - "Can you be more specific though?"

"Well, you'll have to learn Japanese language and embrace its culture, give up your family wealth and social position. We'll make sure to help you integrate and we'll broadcast your progress to encourage the Russian ethnic population to do the same!"

"Well, I see... I'm ok with that, I guess!"



After signing a few documents, she immediately begins an intensive Japanese language course and progresses quickly, to the point that she's able to work as a waitress in a cafe to finance herself now that her family wealth has been seized by the government. She reports on her progress during a weekly vlog which is broadcasted on national TV. One day, she's told that a makeover is needed as many people in the audience have commented on how she is still "too western". Yelena understands that and agrees, expecting a different hairstyle or something like that. Instead, she is carried to a cosmetic surgery centre where her appearance is touched up.

Still stoned by the painkillers, Yelena checks her face to discover she has acquired an unmistakable East Asian flavour. Her once elongated face has been sculpted into a rounder, more youthful shape by the surgeons, her thin nose has been widened and flattened and her eyes, albeit still light, had a vaguely almond-like shape.

Shaken by the changes but still determined to do her best to collaborate with the new rulers in order to spare further troubles to her people, she accepts her new looks and goes on TV again to comment on how she has always envied the beauty of East Asian women and how a minor surgical procedure could make anyone look more like the person one wants to be.

She gets lots of encouraging comments about her new look but her audience wants more, so a new set of surgeries is booked for her.

NEW RULER



Her cheekbones are altered and fat tissue around her eyes is implanted to give her a fully Asian appearance, a special mixture of melanin and a bio-engineered catalyst is flushed through her veins to make her irises and skin absorb the right amount of pigment necessary to turn her irises dark brown and her skin darker and more yellowish.

This time, the surgeries aren't limited to her face as her whole body structure gets remodelled to match that of an average Japanese girl. Her long legs and slender figure get shortened, making her petite and cute. Her vocal cords are also altered to force her to speak with the very high-pitched voice Japanese men find attractive.

To make her appreciate her petite frame more and to introduce her to her new role, she gets dressed up in a frilly maid outfit before her new looks are revealed to her.

Poor Yelena can't believe her now almond-shaped eyes when she sees herself for the first time after the surgeries. She tries not to freak out as she looks at her cute new face and as she turns around to take a first look at her petite frame. Every movement feels different and looks different from outside. Even if she feels shocked, mad and angry, her body language comes off as naive, cute and kawaii. "This is insane, what did you do to me?" - she asks in her new, high-pitched voice. As she hears it, she blushes - she sounds like a teenage girl! "This is who you are now, tell everybody how much you love looking like this and we won't force anyone else to go through this procedure!". Understanding the situation, and hoping that this is for the best, she nods humbly.

NEW RULER



The presentation of Yelena's new looks to the public is widely reclaimed and proves to be sensational among the Japanese audience.

She is instructed to describe how deeply she needed to look more Japanese and how beautiful she feels now. She adds that she has decided to become a full time maid in a newly opened maid cafe to serve the community as best as she can and to prove her gratitude to her new country for giving her this beautiful new culture she is so proud of. She announces that she has sold all her old outfits, which won't fit anymore anyway, and has replaced them with a wide collection of maid outfits to get more into that role.

Over the months, Russian has gradually vanished from her speeches as her Japanese improves and as the Russian-speaking local population learns Japanese. She has to admit that thanks to her new voice she sounds a lot more like a native now.

Now that she has become something of a national sensation, Yelena is forced to legally change her name to Yashi, more easily pronounced by the Japanese population, always struggling with foreign names. This change is seen as a definitive embracement of Japanese culture by many, to the point that people assume that she has been fully integrated in Japanese population and society.



A smiling Yashi greets the customers at the newly open maid cafe in Toyohara “お帰りなさいませ、ご主人様”.

To her horror, she is noticing that an increasing number of ethnic Russian girls are undergoing the same cosmetic procedures as herself, inspired by her own example and they often recognise her and thank her for being such a great role model, after taking a cute selfie with fake rabbit ears. They often start with minor procedures, like an eye lift, or a nose job, and then go all the way to full ethnic reassignment surgery, a procedure subsidised by the government. Whenever she tries to talk to these girls and to reveal them that this wasn't her idea, that she only did this to prevent others to go through the same and begs them not to follow her example, the girls think she's joking and laugh at her. Moreover, whenever she tries to speak Russian to avoid being caught spreading such anti-nationalist messages, she realises how rusty and poor her Russian has become, sometimes struggling for words and mixing it with Japanese.

Wondering whether her sacrifice had been in vain, Yashi has no choice but to continue her daily routine of serving customers, mostly horny Japanese college boys from the main island, treating them like princes and flirting with them.