

Anabela's Christening: Bronx

Sonia was walking home from work when she saw a toy shop. She was marvelling how beautiful it was. She couldn't move. There, right in the middle was a doll, which had blue green eyes which looked straight at Sonia. It seemed to be saying 'take me home.' Sonia thought how silly this is to be fascinated by a doll when I am 23 years old. The next week she avoided the shop but thought of the doll all the time. It was one of the ragdolls that have a porcelain head, hands and feet. Her dress was gorgeous. One day she couldn't resist temptation and bought the doll. When she came out of the shop, she was delighted but apprehensive about what her friends, Anna and Rosa will say. She got home put the doll on the bed and went to the kitchen where Anna and Rosie were.

Rosie said 'I saw you come in with a parcel. What did you buy?'

Anna went to Sonia's bedroom and came back holding the doll like a baby. 'Look we have a new member of our household,' she said. Rosie asked 'what is her name? She doesn't have one,' said Sonia. 'Let's christen her,' said Rosie. 'Anna will you be the godmother?' asked Sonia. 'I would be delighted.' 'Well let's call her Anna,' said Sonia. 'I always wanted to be Anabela,' said Anna. 'Can we call her that?'

Rosie's husband Igor came in and joined the joyful conversation. They called Ivan, and decided to have a christening and a celebration the following day. On Saturday they gathered together scrumptious food and wine. They invited a few friends. Ivan had his grandfather's precious Ukranian bandura, which he had succeeded in saving from the turbulent years of the second world war. He played old songs and ballads from before the Russian revolution. Igor got up and made a big cross in front of Anabela and said, 'with this I christen you Anabela.' The celebration went on through the afternoon, evening and night. Sonia was very, very happy. Her friends understood why she bought the doll. She didn't have any toys during her childhood, and she was sure that all of her friends lost something during the war. She believed if you missed something you can make up for it at any time when the occasion arises.