



Marilia Petite- life in Siberia

Marilia At the beginning we imagined to make a big tour around the world but I felt that I will stay in a place, in a wild place, to live more longer. Our first destination was in the east of Europe, so we continued in this direction, to the east, into Russia.

Jane So you left east and you cycled over which countries?

Marilia Through Germany, Republic Czech, through Poland – in Poland we met the first primeval forest . It's the last one in Europe, Bialowieza By Lithuania and Russia. In Russia we went to the north-west part of Urals.

Jane By the time you arrived there, how many days had passed? Weeks? Months?

Marilia One month we spent to reach the Bialowieza forest and after that we cross again Kazakstan to Altai region in Russia and it was winter time.

Jane Had you saved money for the trip?

Marilia My companion he had sold house and I had sold my Yurt – so we sold everything we had. During the travel we made films, movies, about the forest and administration of our region by these movies, so during the travel we had a little money from them.

Jane What did your family and people in Tremargat think of this crazy idea?

Marilia I think they understood me because I think they had these kind of dreams too maybe. My family in Tremargat, they support me in this travel and in this adventure. When I decide to stay living in far east of Russia my parents support my choice too. My mother came three times into forest in Russia to see me.

Jane And the people you met en route, were very hospitable and kind mostly?

Marilia Not everybody, but generally yes, yes generally. In Mongolia it's like an honour to have guests from from everywhere, so for them it's really human approach to open their door and give us to eat something. I decide to stay because in this little village were living native people and they were living really poorly but simply. Their life was just around one question, it's to find how to eat, and during our trip we was in this reality too. We have nothing, just the strict necessary to live today and tomorrow maybe, and I think when we came in this village we met my future family and they accept me like a sister. I could realise a way of life like I was dreaming in... during my childhood, and lived like an Indian.

Jon You have two children, how old are they?

Marilia Seven and four and a half.

Jon And how long have they now been in France?



Marilia Two years since.

Jon Have they adjusted very well?

Marilia I think for them it's a good thing because now they are going to school and having other activities like music or something like that, but when we remember about Russia, for them Russia it's still like their home and their roots and the history of this people and this family is not light history, but the history with their, their father and their grandfathers and grandmothers is really important for them. They are part of this people and of this history and they received two kind of heritage because we were living into forest and we were living the way of life of natives.

Jane Do you plan on going back to visit?

Marilia Yes, we will go there in autumn.

Jane Well thank you very much Marilia.

Marilia Good bye.