



SECRETS OF  
THE INSTITUTE FOR NOBLE  
MAIDENS



**RUSSIA**  
TELEVISION AND RADIO

**SECRETS OF THE INSTITUTE  
FOR NOBLE MAIDENS**

Genre	Costume Melodrama
Number of episodes	259
Length	44 min
Year	2013
Director	S. Danelyan
Cast	A. Sapegina, A. Sozinova, A. Arsentiev, I. Kolesnikov, U. Guseva, E. Kozhevnikova, R. Kalkaev





### Description

In 1880, the Russian Empire is being shaken to its core by terrorism. Revolutionaries plant bombs everywhere, including the Czar's Palace. Only in one place - the Smolny Institute for Noble Maidens- does life go on as if nothing has changed. The place of education for girls of nobility is filled with curtsies, jokes, laughter, childhood infatuations and secrets. However, these secrets are not the secrets of children, but are rather adult in nature...





*B*rave and intelligent Lisa is also a spirited and determined young lady. She lost almost her entire family when still a child and was brought up by Prince Alexey Vishnevetsky, her father's brother. It was he who was appointed her guardian until Lisa, together with her great fortune, came of age. But the prince, who is amorously obsessed with Lisa, would rather see her miserable, cast out and spurned by society, and seeking solace in his arms...

The uncle and guardian of the main protagonist, school-leaver Lisa Vishnevetskaya, enjoys an impeccable reputation in high society. His charm, friendly disposition and openness win people's trust, permitting them to overlook his minor weaknesses. However, in reality, his soul harbours numerous dark secrets. A born miscreant, Vishnevetsky presides over the Moscow underworld going by the nickname "The Admiral." He spins endless intrigues and is passionately in love with his niece Lisa.









The wife of Count Vladimir Vorontsov is the headmistress of the Institute for Noble Maidens. By nature impetuous, impulsive and impassioned, Sophia is an idealist with an acute sense of justice. She overhauls the way the institute is run, building relationships with her students based on mutual trust and respect. In challenging situations, Sophia exhibits an unexpected degree of wisdom and unwavering fortitude for such a young woman, and commands the respect even of her enemies.

Her husband is a colonel stationed at the headquarters of Grand Duke Nikolay Nikolayevich. He is an honourable man of few words and considerable intelligence. His defining feature is his overarching loyalty, including in love. He is genuinely happy in his marriage to Sophia Vorontsova. The odious Admiral is Vorontsov's arch-nemesis, whom he fights tooth and nail without relenting, risking his life in the process.





### **Episode 1**

When the new school year is about to start, the institute's headmistress Sophia Vorontsova meets with the students.

Prince Vishnevetsky talks to Sophia, requesting special treatment for his niece, who is head over heels in love with Lieutenant Orlov.

Arriving in Moscow, Varya Kulakova's sister Anyuta knows nothing about the death of her sister. Anyuta's appearance at the institute causes a stir: the girl is the spitting image of her dead sister Varya.



### **Episode 4**

Sophia decides to cover up Lisa's escape. Meanwhile, Vorontsov tries to track down Lieutenant Orlov and expose the scoundrel's misdemeanours.

The institute's physician discovers shackle marks on Anyuta's wrists and immediately informs Fräulein Stoltz.

Prince Vishnevetsky learns about his niece's escape and accuses Sophia of negligence. However, he soon finds out that Lisa is still at the institute.

## SYNOPSIS

August 1880. The story centres around six students in their final year at the Moscow Institute for Noble Maidens: Lisa, Polina, Wanda, Yulia, Alena and Eugenia.

Lisa, a wealthy heiress, is in love with Lieutenant Orlov, and decides to run away with him. Although she doesn't want to upset her uncle, the headmistress and her friends, she is simply overwhelmed by her feelings. However, Lisa soon realizes that Orlov is a rake and a gambler and not worthy of her love...

Standing behind the scenes is the formidable Admiral, the kingpin of the criminal underworld.

Prince Vishnevetsky, Lisa's uncle and legal guardian, appears to be a charming and middle-aged bon viveur. However, all is not what it seems – he is in fact the mysterious criminal known as “The Admiral”. Vishnevetsky is a major threat to Lisa's future: he covets her inheritance, while claiming to be passionately in love with her.

Anyuta, the sister of Varya Kulakova – a deceased former student – arrives at the institute. She bears a striking resemblance to her beloved Varya. Having spent several years doing hard labour in a prison camp, Anyuta has been left bitter at the world and keen to avenge her sister's death. When the girl falls in love with the son of a general who

was once in love with Varya, she undergoes a spiritual rebirth.

Natalia Cunningham, a savvy, well-connected schemer who goes by the name Milady, is the Admiral's right hand. On the Admiral's orders, she seduces General Skobelev, widely admired by the people and idolized by the army. The Admiral is concocting a plot to overthrow the emperor and wants to groom Skobelev as dictator, in the hope that he will rule according to the Admiral's bidding. When he learns of the Admiral's plan, Skobelev dies of a heart attack.

It later comes to light that the all-powerful Admiral and Prince Vishnevetsky are in fact one and the same person. Documents are discovered that reveal the crimes he has committed. The Admiral is preparing for his bloodiest misdeed to date: the sabotage of gas pipelines. At the last minute, Count Vorontsov manages to prevent a terrible explosion from happening...

Rid of her criminal uncle and Orlov, Lisa finds true happiness. She is also reunited with her long-lost brother. Lisa's friend Princess Eugenia falls in love with him. There are at least two happy young couples by the end of the engrossing and intricate story of the Secrets of the Institute for Noble Maidens...

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