

The Maiden Without Hands

A Play

By Christopher Vened

Based On

A Grimms' Fairy Tale Of The Same Title

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

<u>The Narrator:</u>	He/She speaks directly to the audience while narrating the story and invoking the action with gestures and movement at the same time.
<u>The Maiden:</u>	An innocent girl whose father sold her to the Devil
<u>Miller:</u>	The Maiden's Father
<u>Miller's Wife:</u>	The Maiden's Mother
<u>The Devil:</u>	He harasses the Maiden
<u>An Angel:</u>	She protects the Maiden
<u>The Gardener:</u>	He finds the Maiden in the Royal Garden
<u>The King:</u>	He marries the Maiden
<u>Two Courtiers:</u>	In the Royal Castle
<u>The King's Mother:</u>	A compassionate Old Queen
<u>The Messenger:</u>	He delivers wrong letters to the King
<u>The Chamberlain:</u>	He assists the King at the War Camp
<u>An Old Man:</u>	The Maiden meets him in the forest
<u>The Son:</u>	The Maiden's Son whom she calls, "Sorrowful"
<u>Three Water Spirits:</u>	In the Royal Garden

Scenes

The Miller's House
The Forest
The Royal Garden
The King's Palace
A Brook
A Cottage in The Forest

Time

Mythological

THE DEVIL

Sign your promise in writing, Miller, to make our contract binding.

The Devil mimes pulling out a feather pen, a bottle of ink, and then unrolls parchment paper.

MILLER

I will.

(writing on the parchment)

If you make me rich, I will give you everything that stands behind my mill.

THE DEVIL

(prompting him)

Right now.

MILLER

(writing)

... right now. Miller.

He signs the contract with gusto. The Devil rolls the contract and puts it into his pocket.

THE DEVIL

In three years I'll come and fetch what's mine!

The Devil goes away.

MILLER

If you deliver.

THE DEVIL

I will deliver. Go home, Miller. And you will find that you are rich.

The Devil disappears.

MILLER

We will see.

(to the audience)

That was strange, wasn't it? Like a dream. Well, in case it was just a dream I'll take this bundle of wood and carry it home.

He picks up the bundle and flings it on his shoulders.

SCENE 2

SET UP:

The Miller's House

THE MAIDEN, the Miller's daughter, is sweeping out the yard behind the mill. Then she stops, picks an apple from a tree, and eats it.

The Miller returns home; his WIFE comes out to meet him.

MILLER'S WIFE

Tell me, husband, how did all this wealth suddenly get into our house?

MILLER

Did it?

MILLER'S WIFE

Yes. All at once I've discovered our chests and boxes are full. Nobody's brought anything, and I don't know how it's all happened.

MILLER

It's from a stranger I met in the forest.

MILLER'S WIFE

A stranger? What do you mean?

MILLER

He promised me great wealth if I agreed in writing to give him what's behind our mill. We can certainly spare the large apple tree.

He points to the tree.

MILLER'S WIFE

Oh, husband! That was the devil! He didn't mean the apple tree but our daughter, who was behind the mill sweeping out the yard.

MILLER

Oh, my God, I sold my own daughter unwittingly.

MILLER'S WIFE

Now what are we going to do, husband?