

The Girl without Hands

By

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Based on the novel of the Brother Grimm

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1 EXT. LANDSCAPE - DAY

Once upon a time there was a Miller, who has little by little fall into poverty. He had nothing left but his mill and an old and large apple tree behind it.

We see a man, THE MILLER, stepping out of his house and walking towards into to forest.

2 EXT. FOREST, GLADE - CONTINUES

We see him fetching wood. He is sweet-soaked. A deep sadness is laying over his face.

When suddenly a strange and creepy laugh sounds through the forest. Birds are flying out of the trees.

The Miller looks nervously around.

We hear the strange, deep and gleeful laughing again.

MILLER  
(nervously)  
Who are you?

The laugh is sounding alternating from different corners of the glade. The Miller tries to find the source of the voice.

MILLER  
(demanding, but anxious)  
Where are you. Show me your face  
invisible stranger!

VOICE (O.S)  
(very deep voice)  
Big words, for such a little man.

The Miller spins immediately.

THE MILLER'S POV:

We see a old bald man, THE DEVIL, standing on a rock. He is wearing a torn black shirt and a black coat, which is covering his legs. He has no eyebrows and no lips. His skin is thin as paper and white as snow. His eyes are black as the night. He is breathing very hardly.

The view changes: we see the Miller gazing at him.

The Devil starts to walk in a large circle around the Miller. A light black fog is surrounding him, while he is walking.

(CONTINUED)

THE DEVIL  
(voice is echoing, like two  
are speaking simultaneously)  
Strike after strike are you  
drudging yourself like a plodder  
and for what?

THE MILLER  
(leery)  
Who are you?

The Devil disappears in fog and appears on the other side of  
the glade in fog again.

THE DEVIL  
(echoing)  
I have many names.  
(beat)  
Some call me a relict of old times.  
Some other call me an enigma.

He disappears again and appears not far away of the Miller.

THE DEVIL (CONT'D)  
(echoing and smiling  
gleefully)  
But today. Call me an option.

THE MILLER  
(wary)  
An option for what?

THE DEVIL  
(echoing and smiling  
gleefully)  
A better life.

The Miller seems thoughtful and scared at once.

THE DEVIL (CONT'D)  
(explaining and echoing)  
Oh Miller I know exactly what you  
are striving after.  
(beat)

He disappears again and appears close behind the Miller. The  
Miller turns.

THE DEVIL (CONT'D)  
(echoing)  
You are wishing for mountains of  
gold.  
(beat)

(CONTINUED)

Walking slowly towards the Miller, who is slowly moving backwards.

THE DEVIL (CONT'D)

You want never again to fear a cold winter.

(beat)

Never again to see your plates empty.

(beat)

Never again to worry about the welfare of your wife and your child.

THE MILLER

(anxious, but fascinated)

Who are you?

THE DEVIL

I offer you a pact. Also do I desire something. Give me what is behind your mill and you will never worry again.

THE MILLER

(thoughtful & wary)

How do I know that I can trust you?

The Devil disappears again and appears right in front of the Miller.

THE DEVIL

(gleeful)

You can't! But I'm your only chance!

The Devil stretches his thin and dead-looking hand to shake. The Miller seems concerned.

THE DEVIL

(pretending to carry about him)

Think of your poor wife and you poor child.

The Miller thinks for a moment, then he shakes the hand of the Devil.

THE DEVIL

The pact is sealed.

A fog encases the hands of both and leaves a dark mark on the hand of the Miller. The Devil slowly moves backwards.

(CONTINUED)

THE DEVIL  
Mark my words Miller. In three  
years I will return to get what is  
mine!

Fog encases him and the Devil disappears as suddenly as he  
appeared.

The Miller looks thoughtfully and anxious around, then he  
looks down to his hand.

THE MILLER'S POV: We  
see the dark mark on his hand.

3 INT. MILLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We see the door open and a the Miller coming in.

THE MILLER OVER SHOULDER:  
His wife, MARLEN (38), moves quickly towards him. Her face  
is pale.

THE MILLER  
What happened my dear wife?

MARLEN  
(frightened)  
Something bad.  
(beat)

MARLEN (O.S)  
(continues)  
There are gold coins in everyplace  
in this house. In every box and  
every single chest.

MONTAGE STARTS

- A chest filled with coins
- Three boxes filled with coins
- Shoes filled with coins

MONTAGE ENDS

The view changes: We see both in a two-shot.

THE MILLER  
(looking amazed)  
What?

(CONTINUED)

MARLEN

That's really bad. The money don't belong to us. It just appears like a ghost.

THE MILLER

(grabbing his wife and smiling crazily)

What are you talking honey! These are great news. We have no worries anymore. Never again!

(beat)

We are rich! Don't you get it? We are rich!

Marlen frees herself of her husband's grip and moves slowly backwards. Her face is frightened.

MARLEN

(cold)

What have you done?

The Miller hesitates a few seconds, then he opens his mouth.

THE MILLER

(careful)

I promised a man in the wood to give him later what is behind the mill in exchange to being rich.

Her face freezes immediately. She drops on her knees and looks desperate to the ground.

THE MILLER

Honey don't worry. He can have the apple-tree I don't mind.

(knees down to her)

Look we are rich people from now on.

She turns her look to him. Her eyes are filled with tears. Hate is running over her face.

MARLEN

(angry, crying)

You poor fool.

(shaking her head)

He is not striving after an apple-tree.

(beat)

We see the confused face of The Miller.

(CONTINUED)

MARLEN (CONT'D)

(tremble)

Behind our mill, during your work  
in the forest...someone was  
sweeping the yard behind the mill.

THE MILLER

(nervous)

What? Who?

MARLEN

(crying helpless)

Our little daughter.

Marlen breaks into tears. The face of the Miller turns pale. We hear his wife breaking into a terrible attack of tears and crying. The Miller is forming with his lips the word "No" several times. He falls back on his butt and crawls backwards until he hit the edge of the table. He grabs after his hair with his hands and starts to cry.

THE MILLER

(crying in guilt)

No No No No.

He screams in pain.

The view changes: We see from outside, through a window the both siting on the floor and crying.

FADE OUT:

4 EXT. YARD, THE MILLER'S HOME - DAY

**Insert text: 3 Years later**

FADE IN:

We see, in a wide-hot, the yard of the Miller. He is siting on a chair and observing his daughter dancing around the tree.

We see a close-up of the face of the Miller. He is looking happy and sad at once. His look moves down to the mark on his hand. It looks like it was made yesterday.

A wind blow comes up and wafts the leafs to the left side of the yard in direction to the forest.

The Millers look follows the flying leafs, when suddenly he sees something at the border of his yard.

His look freezes. We see from his POV a wolf looking to the girl and then to us. The Miller and the wolf exchanges

(CONTINUED)

glances, then the wolf moves slowly away in direction to the forest.

The Miller follows him. We see both moving deep into the forest. Suddenly, the wolfs stops. The Miller does the same. The Wolf disappears behind a big tree.

We focus our look to the tree, when suddenly:

VOICE (O.S)  
(echoing)  
Long time it is ago my friend.

We see the Miller waiting anxious for the Devil to show himself. Suddenly, a hand grabs him from behind. The Miller spins immediately and winces.

THE DEVIL  
(echoing and gleeful)  
Why so scared my dear friend? You  
look like you see death personally.

THE MILLER  
(moving slowly backwards)  
Not him, but his father!  
(angry)  
You betrayed me!

THE DEVIL  
(pretending to be hurt)  
Oh. That's not fair my dear friend.  
I offer you the rich life you and  
your family are living and you  
offered me something as reward.

THE MILLER  
But you never said one word that it  
is about my dear child.

The face of the Devil turns furious. He flies encased in a fog to the Miller and this in a incredible speed. The Devil is now right in front of his face.

THE DEVIL  
(echoing and deep)  
Pact is pact. what mine is mine.  
(starring to his eyes)  
I'm here to take my property.

The Miller looks desperate.



THE DEVIL

(calm)

But sadly there is one, little  
problem.

The Miller looks clueless.

THE DEVIL

The circle that you draw around her  
is senseless, but your daughter is  
too clean. I can't get near to her  
under this condition. Take away all  
the water from her or I kill you  
and your beloved wife!

The Miller looks shocked.

5 INT. MILLER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We see the Miller putting a chain around the cupboard, in  
which with water filled barrels are laying. He is looking to  
the face of his Wife.

THE MILLER

(helpless)

We got no other choice.

Marlen is looking absent and moves off the screen without  
showing any reaction.

6 EXT. YARD, THE MILLER'S HOME - DAY

We see the Girl crying over her hands. Her tears are  
cleaning the dirt from her hands.

7 EXT. FOREST, GLADE - LATER

The Devil is pushing the Miller against a tree and gazing  
hatefully at him.

THE DEVIL

Is this a joke to you Miller.

The Miller is looking frightened.

THE DEVIL (CONT'D)

I want you TO CUT OFF HER HANDS!

THE MILLER

(wide eyes)

What?

(CONTINUED)

THE DEVIL  
Her tears wet hands are ruining my  
plan. Cut the damn things off.

THE MILLER  
(anxiously)  
I'CANT DO THIS!  
(crying)  
She is my only child.

THE DEVIL  
Her hands or your life.  
(revealing his sharp teeth)  
It's your choice Miller!

8 INT. MILLER'S HOUSE, ROOM OF THE GIRL - LATER

The girl is playing with some dolls. The door opens. We see the Miller stepping in. He looks lost. His eyes and his nose are red from crying.

The Girl is looking to him and smiling.

GIRL  
(smiling)  
Hello father. You wanna play with  
me? It's lunch time.  
(looking to the dolls )  
The others are already here.

The Miller starts to cry.

THE MILLER OVER SHOULDER

GIRL  
(looking kind of worried)  
Father? Is everything okay?

Suddenly we see an ax moving into the screen. The Miller is holding it on his left hand.

GIRL  
(scared, tears in her eyes)  
Daddy?

9 EXT. YARD, THE MILLER'S HOME - NIGHT

We see the Miller dragging his daughter out on her hand. Marlen is running after him. A storm is going on and a heavy rain is falling followed by some thunders and lightnings.

(CONTINUED)

MARLEN  
(terrified)  
For God's sake! What are you doing?

The Miller pushes her hardly to the ground.

THE MILLER  
(crying)  
I got no choice!

He tires the hands of his daughter on a tree stump.

GIRL  
(crying)  
Please daddy. Please don't do that!

THE MILLER  
(crying)  
I'm sorry honey.

The Miller is lifting up the ax. A thunder is sounding.

GIRL (O.S)  
(crying)  
Please Daddy no! Please.

We see the Mother laying against the wall and crying in pain. The girl is screaming like crazy. We see in a close-up the face of the Miller.

THE MILLER  
(crying)  
Daddy loves you my dear.  
(looking to the sky)  
But a pact is a pact.

We hear the girl screaming.

The last what we see is the ax falling.

**BLACKNESS**

We hear bones breaking and blood rushing. A deafening scream is sounding, followed by a echoing and very deep laugh.

**THE END**