THE THREE GOLDEN HAIRS

A play in one act

by Casey Johnson

Based off of the story The Devil with the Three Golden Hairs by Jacob Ludwig Grimm and Wilhelm Carl Grimm.
CHARACTERS
WILLIAM
KING
PRINCESS ARIA
DEVIL
DEVIL’S GRANDMOTHER
FERRYMAN
DANIEL
QUEEN
THE MILLER
THE MILLER’S WIFE
DIMARUS
ELISABETH
TAX COLLECTOR
GAURD
THIEVES
TOWNSPEOPLE

SYNOPSIS
A miller’s son embarks on a journey through the Black Forest, facing thieves and a demon to marry the princess, .

INFO
For copyright issues I can not give a picture of the “stuffed horse-head on a stick” mentioned. Search exactly what is in the quotes into google images, there are some great pictures there.
ACT ONE

SCENE ONE

SETTING: We are in the home of ELISABETH and DAMARUS FRIDEBART, around 1400-1500 AD.

AT RISE: DAMARUS and ELISABETH are frozen, sitting on a bench in their home. ELISABETH appears to be holding a baby.

(WILLIAM enters.)

WILLIAM (to audience)
Once there lived a very poor woman and her husband, my parents, who were delighted when I was born with a special birthmark on my neck. The mark was supposed to bring good fortune to my family. It was predicted that I would marry the King’s daughter when I turned nineteen. But when the king heard this, He wasn’t so happy...

(WILLIAM exits.)

(DAMARUS and ELISABETH unfreeze.)

ELISABETH
Can you believe it, Damarus? Our first child.

DIMARUS
I can not. The lord has blessed us with not only a baby boy, but one who will bring us great fortune.

ELISABETH
How do you know that, Damarus?

DIMARUS
Why, that crown shaped-birthmark on his neck of course!
ELISABETH
And this brings fortune?

DIMARUS
Of course it does! You rarely will see them shaped like that! It’s bound to be good luck!

ELISABETH
We could get money and afford a new home!

DIMARUS
Elisabeth, could have homes for our homes. I’d say that by the time he’s fifteen, we’ll be rich!

ELIZABETH
Oh, Damarus! This will be great! Truly great!

DAMARUS runs to the door

DIMARUS
Well come on, then!

ELISABETH
Where are we going?

DIMARUS
To see the scryer!

DAMARUS and ELISABETH run off stage, holding baby will in a basket.

WILLIAM (offstage) (to audience)
My mother and father left to see a scryer named Sabine. A scryer had the to look into the future and give prophecies. Nothing surprised my parents more when they heard the news.

(ELISABETH and DAMARUS enter with the basket.)
(Sabine the Scryer enters from the opposite side of the stage and flips a “Closed” sign over so it reads “Open”)

(ELISABETH and DAMARUS enter the store)

SABINE
Hello!

DIMARUS
Hello, my name is Damarus and this is my wife-

SABINE
Don’t tell me… (to ELISABETH) Your name is… Jessia.

ELISABETH
No…

SABINE
Margaret?

ELISABETH
No, my name is-

SABINE
Lucy.

ELISABETH
No! It’s Elisab-

SABINE
Wait! I know… Elisabeth.

ELISABETH
How’d you guess? (sarcastically)

SABINE
I don’t guess… The Great Sabine knows all. Sit.

(ELISABETH and DAMARUS sit.)

SABINE
So, why are you here?
DIMARUS
We want to know more about the birthmark on our son’s neck.

SABINE
Birthmark?
   (SABINE lifts up the basket.)

SABINE
This marking... It looks like a crown... I have read about birthmarks like that.
   (SABINE opens a book and looks through the pages.)
SABINE
Here... See? This marking looks just like it.

DIMARUS
What does it say about it?

SABINE
The man who bears this mark... Is destined to marry the princess when he has reached the age of nineteen!

ELISABETH
Princess?

DIMARUS
Princess!

SABINE
Yes! The Princess!

ELISABETH
This is great!
   (ELISABETH, DAMARUS, and SABINE celebrate.)

(END OF SCENE)

ACT ONE
SCENE TWO

SETTING: We are in a small town, somewhere in Europe. It should look gloomy. It is the day after the scene before.

AT RISE: Townspeople are walking, playing, cleaning, etc. They should have grumpy, sad, expressions on their faces. When they hear the news of William, they should become excited and happy.

LUTHER
Venarda!

VENARDA
What, Luther?

LUTHER
Did you hear the news?

VENARDA
What news?

LUTHER
Yesterday, a baby named William was born. He had a birthmark on his head and-

VENARDA
So what?

LUTHER
Because the birthmark is shaped like a crown, that means that he will marry the princess when they turn nineteen.

VENARDA
I can’t believe it!
Sam! (to Sam)

SAM
What?

VENARDA
Did you hear the news?
SAM
What news?

(VERANDA tells SAM and the news spreads quickly between all of the townspeople, their mouths should be moving but with no sound because of WILLIAM’s line that occurs at the same time.)

WILLIAM
The news spread like wildfire. Between person to person. Then town to town. Then finally, to the king.

(END OF SCENE)
ACT ONE

SCENE THREE

SETTING: We are in the King’s castle, a dark, gloomy place.

AT RISE: The King is sitting on his throne, thinking.

(Enter Daniel, the King’s advisor)

KING
Ah, Daniel. I need you to help me plan what I’m wearing to my cousin’s birthday.

DANIEL
Your Majesty, I have far more important news.

KING
(in a whiny voice) But I wanna-

DANIEL
Your Majesty, it’s about the princess.

KING
My daughter? Why didn’t you say so? What happened?

DANIEL
It seems that she has already been planned a husband.

KING
Already? Well I guess that would be okay, it would give me years to watch that boy to make sure he is, um, suitable.

DANIEL
Yes, well-

KING
Is he rich?

DANIEL
Um...
KING
Is. He. Rich?

DANIEL
Well, no. But-

KING
Not rich? If he is poor, then our family’s money will have to be split with his! We will surely lose lots of money!

DANIEL
But he was born with the birthmark!

KING
What mark?

DANIEL
The crown-shaped mark that predicts that he will marry your daughter at age nineteen.

KING
I don’t care what kind of special marking he has! If he is poor, he will not be married into my family.

DANIEL
What can we do about it?

KING
You’re the advisor! Advise!

(DANIEL thinks)

DANIEL
How about we go to the family’s home, offer to raise the child in the castle so he can learn how to act like royalty. But, when they give him up-

KING
We really drown him in the river!

DANIEL
Excellent idea, your majesty.
KING
I know... Come on!  (END OF SCENE THREE)
ACT ONE

SCENE FOUR

SETTING: We are in the home of ELISABETH and DAMARUS FRIDEBART,

AT RISE: ELISABETH and DIMARUS are again on a bench, rocking baby

William.

(Enter KING and DANIEL. The KING knocks on the door)

DIMARUS
I’ll get it, Elisabeth.

(DIMARUS opens the door)

Hello?

DANIEL
Are you Damarus?

DIMARUS
I am.

DANIEL
Then may I introduce to you... The King.

(The KING steps out from behind DANIEL)

DIMARUS
Your Majesty

(DIMARUS bows)

ELISABETH
Who’s at the door, honey?

DIMARUS
The King.

ELISABETH
The King? Invite him in!

(The KING and DANIEL enter the house.)

Hello your majesty.
KING
Hello, Elisabeth. I have heard that you have recently given birth to a son!

ELISABETH
I have.

KING
I have also heard that he has been destined to marry my daughter.

ELISABETH
Yes, isn’t it exciting?

KING
Yes, very. If you would like, I could take this baby off of your hands and raise him in my castle. He could learn all of the responsibilities of being a prince, and some day, a king.

ELISABETH
Oh… Thank you for the offer but-

KING
What do you say?

ELISABETH
Well-

DIMARUS
Elisabeth… I’m as sad about letting our son leave us as you are, but… It could make him a better ruler some day...

KING
And if you do… You will get this bag of gold.
(KING holds up a bag of gold)

ELISABETH
(hesitating) O- Okay...

KING
Excellent. Daniel, get the baby.
(DANIEL picks up the basket.)
Good day to you Mister and Misses Fridebart.
(DANIEL and KING exit.)
ELISABETH
Oh what have I done? I miss him already.

DIMARUS
He will be raised by the richest family in Europe. I’m sure that he will be fine, Elisabeth.

ELISABETH
I hope you are right.

(END OF SCENE FOUR)
ACT ONE

SCENE FIVE

SETTING: ON TOP OF BRIDGE OVER A RIVER
IN THE MIDDLE OF NO WHERE.

AT RISE: THE KING AND DANIEL ENTER WITH
A BASKET, CONTAINING BABY WILLIAM.

KING
Okay, Daniel. I think as the counselor to me and your help
in getting the baby, you should do the honors. Also I do
not want to risk the chance of being caught.

DANIEL
Yes, my king.

KING
I will be far away, in my castle. I don’t even want to be
near incase you get caught.

(KING exits.)
(DANIEL stares at the baby.)

DANIEL
Oh I just can not do it! I could just send him down the
river in a box, but if my King found out...
(DANIEL looks at the baby again.)

Oh okay!
(DANIEL finds a box and sets the baby in it.
DANIEL pulls out a sheet of paper and starts to write.)
Will-i-am.
(DANIEL sets the note in the box, then puts the
box in the water.)

WILLIAM
(offstage) (to audience) The box floated like a boat on the
water, and not a drop got inside. It sailed to a spot about
two miles away, until it stopped and rested.

(Enter the MILLER and his WIFE)
MILLER
It is a wonderful day for fishing, isn’t it?

MILLER’S WIFE
It sure is... But don’t you think that we should get back to work at the grain mill? We are still behind-

MILLER
Come on, Honey. We still need breaks every once in a while.

(MILLER’S WIFE notices the box in the water.)

MILLER’S WIFE
Look at that box!

MILLER
What do you think is in it?

MILLER’S WIFE
Maybe it’s something valuable...

MILLER
Valuable?

(The MILLER reaches into the river and pulls the box out. THE MILLER opens the box.)

It’s a baby!

MILLER’S WIFE
A baby? Oh it truly is valuable! But not in the money kind of way...

MILLER
And would you look at that birthmark!

MILLER’S WIFE
Oh we must keep him! We’ve always wanted a baby! Can we keep him?

MILLER
Of course we can!
(THE MILLER and THE MILLER’S WIFE embrace, then carry the box offstage)

(END OF SCENE FIVE)
SCENE SIX

SETTING: At the grain mill, nineteen years after Scene 5.

AT RISE: WILLIAM is carrying bags of grain to THE MILLER.

WILLIAM
(to audience) The miller and his wife took me in and raised me as their own child, and now, here I am. Nineteen years later...
(to MILLER) Here you go, father.

MILLER
Thank you, William.

(ENTER KING and DANIEL)

KING
Hello, stranger. My men and I have become lost, do you know the way to York?

MILLER
Sure I do, Your Majesty! (pointing) You just go down that road, then turn-
(WILLIAM steps out from behind the MILLER, revealing himself to the KING)

WILLIAM
Father, it’s quite warm outside, may I go inside?

MILLER
Sure!

(WILLIAM exits)

KING
That’s quite an interesting birthmark he has, is he your son?

MILLER
No, he is a foundling. Nineteen years ago my wife and I found a box sailing on the mill stream. We wanted to know what it was so we drew it out of the water and found the child in it.

KING
Nineteen years ago?
    (KING turns to DANIEL)
I thought I told you to kill him!

DANIEL
We don’t even know if that is him!

KING
It was the same mark! The found him nineteen years ago!
    (KING turns back to THE MILLER)
I want to send a letter to my wife, the Queen. If your son
will take it to her, I will give him a bag of gold for his
trouble.

MILLER
We would love to be of your service. I will go get him.

KING
Excellent.
    (MILLER exits)

KING
Daniel, do not fail me again.

DANIEL
I am sorry your majesty.

KING
Now, I need a piece of paper

DANIEL
Yes, Sire.

KING
    (Speaking out loud as he is writing)
Dear my wife, As soon as the boy who brings this letter
arrives, let him be killed, and I shall expect to find him
dead and buried when I come back.

DANIEL
Great idea, your majesty.

KING
I know.
    (WILLIAM enters and bows.)
WILLIAM
Your majesty.

KING
Take this letter and deliver it to my wife, the queen.

WILLIAM
Yes, my king.

(END OF SCENE SIX)
SCENE SEVEN

SETTING: On a road in the middle of a forest, night.

AT RISE: WILLIAM is walking down the road, looking very tired.

WILLIAM
Tired... Thirsty... Hungry... I must rest.
(WILLIAM falls over and falls asleep. He wakes back up)
But... I must get this letter to the queen.
(WILLIAM lays down again)
But... Sleep sounds better...
(WILLIAM falls asleep.)

(Enter THIEVES)

THIEF #1
Shhhhh. Everyone be quiet. We don’t want to wake him.

THIEF #2
Do you think he has anything valuable?

THIEF #3
He might...

THIEF #1
Well if you guys would be quiet, we could check.

(THIEVES walk over to WILLIAM and find the letter.)

THIEF #2
A letter to the queen?

THIEF #3
It could contain valuable information.

THIEF #1
Well then let’s open it!
(THIEVES open the letter)

THIEF #1
Dear my wife... It must be from the king!
THIEF #2
As soon as the boy who brings this letter arrives–
THIEF #3
Let him be killed... And I shall expect to find him-

THIEF #1
Dead and buried when I come back...
   (THIEF #1 tears up the letter)

THIEF #2
What are you doing?

THIEF #3
Why did you tear it up?

THIEF #1
We can’t let him die! He’s an innocent boy!

THIEF #2
Well what can we do?

THIEF #3
It’s not like we can just write another letter and send it off with him.

THIEF #1
That’s a great idea! Give me some paper!
   (THIEF #2 gives THIEF #1 a paper, he speaks aloud as he writes.)
As soon as the boy carrying this letter arrives, he should be married to the our daughter... Before I come back.

THIEF #2
Are you sure this is a good idea?

THIEF #3
I think it’s a great one...

THIEF #1
Me too...
   (He puts the letter back in WILLIAM’s pocket.
WILLIAM moves.)

THIEF #2
Run!
THIEF #3
He’s waking up!

(THIEVES run offstage.)
(WILLIAM wakes up and stands up.)

WILLIAM
I have to get this letter to the queen!
(WILLIAM stands up and runs offstage.)
(END OF SCENE SEVEN.)
ACT ONE

SCENE EIGHT

SETTING: In front of the KING and QUEEN’s castle, the next day.

AT RISE: WILLIAM is walking in front of the castle.

WILLIAM
Finally, I have made it to the castle.

(Enter PRINCESS ARIA and ALICE)

PRINCESS ARIA
Oh Alice! I simply can not wait for the day that I will fall in love. I mean, look at you and your husband! You are so happy together.

ALICE
I must admit that we are. But I know that you will soon meet your true love, very soon.

PRINCESS ARIA
I hope so...

(PRINCESS ARIA trips as WILLIAM is walking by. He grabs her arm and stops her from falling.)

WILLIAM
Are you okay?

PRINCESS ARIA
Yes... But only because you saved me! You saved my life!

WILLIAM
Pffft. I don’t know about your life but maybe your dress from getting dirty.

ALICE
Well, um... Aria, we really need to go.

PRINCESS ARIA
What? Oh! I’m very sorry but my mother is expecting me…
(PRINCESS ARIA and ALICE run offstage)

WILLIAM
Wow… She’s beautiful!
(A short pause.)
Oh! The letter!
(WILLIAM walks up to the guard.)

GUARD
What is your name and why have you come here today?

WILLIAM
The king has given me a letter to give to the queen.

GUARD
The king? Go on in!

(GUARD opens the doors and lets WILLIAM enter.)
(WILLIAM sees the queen and bows.)

WILLIAM
Your Majesty…
(WILLIAM stands back up)
My name is William. It’s a pleasure to meet you.

QUEEN
Is there a reason you are here, William? I am very busy trying to find a husband for my daughter, the princess.

WILLIAM
Um… Yes. Your husband, the king, has asked me to deliver this letter to you.
(WILLIAM pulls out the letter and hands it to the QUEEN.)
(the QUEEN opens the letter.)

QUEEN
As soon as the boy carrying this letter arrives, he should be married to our daughter… Before I come back.
(she stares at WILLIAM)

WILLIAM
Married?
QUEEN
Very well, you and the princess will be married at sunrise tomorrow morning.

WILLIAM
That would make me a… a-

QUEEN
A prince!

WILLIAM
Wow! I am very grateful for the offer, your majesty. But, I must refuse it!

QUEEN
Refuse? Why on earth would you refuse becoming a prince?

WILLIAM
Well, I met someone else on the way here that I have fallen in love with.

QUEEN
Who?

(Enter PRINCESS ARIA)

ARIA
That’s what I want to know.

WILLIAM
It- It’s you!

QUEEN
Well then this settles it, you shall be married in the morning!

(END OF SCENE EIGHT)

SCENE NINE
ACT ONE

SETTING: Inside of castle, day after the previous scene.

AT RISE: WILLIAM and PRINCESS ARIA are standing next to each other, center stage. Other people are crowded around the sides of the stage. KING is not present.

PRIEST
Into this holy estate, William and Aria come now to be married. If any person can give a reason why they may not lawfully be married, speak now, or forever hold your peace...

(Enter THE KING)

KING
I object!

(Everybody but KING gasps)

PRINCESS ARIA
Father!

QUEEN
Why would you object? Are you not the one who asked for our daughter and William to be married?

KING
Married? No! That's what I was preventing! I asked for William to be killed!

WILLIAM
Killed?

PRINCESS ARIA
Oh, Father! Please don't kill William. I love him! If you kill him I will throw myself from the highest tower in the castle!

KING
Aria!

PRINCESS ARIA
I must marry him!

(KING thinks for a moment)
KING
William, was the note I wrote changed?

WILLIAM
I do not know. Unless it was changed the night I slept in the forest.

KING
You will not get off easily. If you want to marry my daughter, you must bring me the three golden hairs off of the demon of the Black Forest. If you bring them, you shall be married to my daughter.

(WILLIAM looks at PRINCESS ARIA)

WILLIAM
Aria, I will get those hairs and return as fast as I can. I'm not afraid of the demon.

ARIA
Good luck William!

(WILLIAM exits.)
(BLACKOUT)
(END OF SCENE NINE)
SCENE TEN

SETTING: We are outside of a town, at a gate. A fountain and a tree are shown by the gate.

AT RISE: WILLIAM is walking to the gate, a TAX COLLECTOR stands by the gate.

TAX COLLECTOR
Halt!

(WILLIAM stops walking.)

WILLIAM
What’s the matter?

TAX COLLECTOR
I am the tax collector, you need to pay to enter my city.

WILLIAM
Pay? Well I don’t have any money-

TAX COLLECTOR
No money, no entry.

(WILLIAM thinks for a moment.)

WILLIAM
I could pay you with knowledge! I do know a lot. I helped my adoptive parents run their mill.

TAX COLLECTOR
A mill? I am not sure information like that could help me, but if you can help us find out why our city’s fountain, from which wine used to flow, is dried up, and never gives us even water now.

WILLIAM
A fountain?

TAX COLLECTOR
Yes, it watered our tree, which as you can see, is dying because of our broken fountain. We think it’s the fault of the Demon of the Black Forest.

WILLIAM
The Demon of the Black Forest?
(WILLIAM thinks for a moment.)
I'll make a deal with you... If you let me pass through your city for free, when I return I will fix the fountain.

(TAX COLLECTOR thinks)

TAX COLLECTOR
How?

WILLIAM
I am on my way to see the demon... I could ask him.

TAX COLLECTOR
Very well, if you can find out and fix it. But when you return you must fix it or I will throw you in jail! If you return...

(TAX COLLECTOR opens the gate to the city.)

WILLIAM
Thank you!

(WILLIAM exits.)
(END OF SCENE TEN.)
ACT ONE

SCENE ELEVEN

SETTING: Outside of the Black Forest... A river runs in front of the Forest
AT RISE: FERRYMAN is standing in his boat.

(Enter WILLIAM.)

WILLIAM
Finally, I have made it. But how do I get across this river?

FERRYMAN
Through me.

(WILLIAM notices the FERRYMAN.)

WILLIAM
Who are you?

FERRYMAN
I am the ferryman.

WILLIAM
Can you get me to the other side?

FERRYMAN
I could... But I must warn you, no one who enters the Black forest ever returns. For, on the other side, lies the Beast of the Black Forest.

WILLIAM
Excellent! I have come to the right place then! I need to see the beast so I can marry my future wife.

FERRYMAN
Alright then, I will take you across. But I must ask a favor of you...

WILLIAM
Anything! What is it?
FERRYMAN
Tell me how come I am forced to go backward and forward in my ferryboat every day, without a change of any kind, and I can not leave the boat.

WILLIAM
Wait till I come back, then you shall know all about it.

FERRYMAN
Very well... Climb aboard then...

WILLIAM
Thank you.

(WILLIAM enters the boat. WILLIAM and FERRYMAN exit. The “river” is taken off with them.)

(END OF SCENE ELEVEN.)
ACT ONE

SCENE TWELVE

SETTING: We are now in a different part of the Black Forest.

AT RISE: WILLIAM and FERRYMAN enter on the boat.

FERRYMAN
Here you are, William... I’ll see you when you get back... If you get back.

(WILLIAM gets of boat. FERRYMAN exits.)

WILLIAM
That’s reassuring...

(DEMOND’S GRANDMOTHER notices WILLIAM.)

DEMOND’S GRANDMOTHER
You, over there!

(WILLIAM notice’s the DEMOND’S GRANDMOTHER.)

WILLIAM
Me?

DEMOND’S GRANDMOTHER
Yes you! What are you doing here?

WILLIAM
What are you doing here? That is the question. The Black Forest is no place for an old lady!

DEMOND’S GRANDMOTHER
Old lady? Old lady! I’m only nine thousand three hundred and twenty six!

WILLIAM
Nine thousand three hundred and twenty six?

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
Okay fine! Nine thousand three hundred and fifty two.

WILLIAM
Wow!

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
I know... Don’t look a day over nine thousand three hundred and eleven do I?

WILLIAM
Um-

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
So... (Yelling.)
What do you want?

WILLIAM
I just want three golden hairs from the demon’s head, otherwise my wife will be taken away from me.

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
That is asking a great deal. I could just kill you now and save the trouble. But, I was in love once too, so I’ll help you. But you must listen to me for if the demon comes home and finds you here, he will have no mercy on you. However, if you will trust me, I will try to help you.

WILLIAM
Okay, I trust you. But, there is two things I still want. I want to know why a well, from which wine used to flow, should be dry now, so that not even water can be got from it. Secondly, why a ferryman is forced to row forward and back every day, without being able to leave.

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
These are difficult questions, but keep still and quiet, and when the demon comes in, pay great attention to what he says, while I pull the golden hairs out of his head. Here, hide under his bed.

(WILLIAM gets under the bed)
(Enter THE DEMON.)

DEMON
Hi, grammy.
DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
Hello, Demon.

(DEMON sniffs.)

DEMON
Do you smell human?

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
Humans? No... I think you nose is still clogged from your dinner.

(WILLIAM gulps.)

DEMON
What was that?

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
What was what?

DEMON
That noise...

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
I did not hear a noise. Are you feeling okay? Do you need to rest?

DEMON
No I-

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
Yes you do...

(She leads the DEMON to his bed.)

How about I read you a bedtime story?

DEMON
(Yawns.)
I guess that would be alright...

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
Once upon a time in a far off kingdom... There was a fountain that flowed wine, but then stopped and didn’t even flow water. Nobody knew why so-

DEMON
I know why! There sits a toad under the fountain, and he is blocking the wine from flowing. I placed him there ages ago!

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
Well then I guess you already know that story, so I’ll move to a different one.

DEMON
Please do...

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
A long time ago, a ferryman complained that he is obliged to take people across the river, and is never free. So-

DEMON
That stupid fellow! He can very easily ask any person who wants to be ferried over to take the oar in his hand, and he will be free at once!

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
Well it seem that you know all of my stories.

DEMON
I have become very tired... I think I will sleep now.

(DEMON falls asleep and DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER pulls the three hairs from his head and gives them to WILLIAM.)

DEMON
AARG!

DEMON’S GRANDMOTHER
Run, William!

(WILLIAM exits and DEMON gets up and chases him.)

(END OF SCENE TWELVE.)
ACT ONE

SCENE THIRTEEN

SETTING: Outside of the Black Forest. By the river.

AT RISE: FERRYMAN is sitting in his boat. WILLIAM runs on stage.

WILLIAM
Ferryman! Hurry we need to get to the other side! Quickly! The demon is after me!

FERRYMAN
First, how do I get out?

WILLIAM
There’s no time! Hurry, get to the other side!

(WILLIAM gets in the boat and they go to the other side of the stage.)

(Enter DEMON.)

DEMON
You! You took my golden hairs!

(DEMON runs over the river and to the same side of the stage as WILLIAM and the FERRYMAN.)

WILLIAM
Ferryman, throw your oar at him!

(DEMON jumps in the boat, the FERRYMAN shoves the oar in his hand, then WILLIAM and the FERRYMAN jump out of the boat. DEMON tries to jump out but can’t.)

FERRYMAN
We did it!

DEMON
What have you done? I can’t get out!
WILLIAM
Now you know how the ferryman felt! Happy rowing!
(WILLIAM and the FERRYMAN exit, laughing.)
(END OF SCENE THIRTEEN.)
ACT ONE

SCENE FOURTEEN

SETTING: In side of the KING and QUEEN’s castle, the next day.

AT RISE: KING, QUEEN, and PRINCESS ARIA are sitting in thrones.

KING
Daughter, time is almost up for your fiance. If he does not arrive by the day after tomorrow, he will be assumed dead and you will not marry him.

(WILLIAM and FERRYMAN enter on “stuffed horse-head on a stick”s (pictured in the info section (page two)))

WILLIAM
I don’t think declaring me dead will be necessary, your majesty.

PRINCESS ARIA
William! You’re back! Beautiful horses! Where did you get them?

WILLIAM
We were rewarded with them after we fixed a city’s fountain, it’s a long story.

PRINCESS ARIA
We have all the time we want for long stories, we are getting married!

KING
Not so fast! Where are the golden hairs?

WILLIAM
Here, your majesty.

(WILLIAM takes out the hairs.)

KING
Wow! Now that you have gathered the hairs, I am ready to let you marry my daughter.
WILLIAM, FERRYMAN, QUEEN, PRINCESS ARIA
Horray!

(END OF SCENE FOURTEEN.)
(END OF ACT ONE.)
(END OF PLAY.)