

FITCHER'S BIRD

A Grimm's Fairy Tale

Adapted by Mark Steven Jensen

©2007

Mark Steven Jensen



CAST:

FITCHER – A great wizard

SISTER – A young woman who plays three sisters

FIRST PRODUCTION:

This adaptation of Fitcher's Bird was first performed as part of **THE DARK SIDE OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM**. Produced by Hardcover Theater, this production was staged at the Bryant Lake Bowl in Minneapolis, MN on October 11 – 28, 2007.

FITCHER was played by Hans Hauge and **SISTER** was played by Laurel Orman. Victoria Pyan directed the production.

Contact Author:

Phone: 763-545-2145

requests@markjensenwriter.com

(FITCHER appears as a poor man in rags. SISTER stirs something in a pot.)

FITCHER

There once was a wizard, named Fitcher, who could take the form of a beggar.

(FITCHER knocks. SISTER opens the door.)

Pardon my knock, but I am ever so hungry!

SISTER (OLDEST)

Of course, my poor man. I'll return with bread.

FITCHER

One night he appeared before the door of a house where three beautiful sisters lived.

SISTER

(SISTER assumes mannerisms to show the differences between each sister.)

Oldest Sister, handsome and discreet. Youngest Sister, smart and daring. Middle Sister. Hates them both.

FITCHER

Fitcher had been spying on this charming household for many days.

SISTER (OLDEST)

Here you are, I just baked this loaf today.

(FITCHER touches the SISTER. She screams and interlocks her arms with FITCHER's arms. They stand back to back.)

SISTER (OLDEST)

Too late I realized he was a wizard. He did but touch me, the Oldest Sister, and I was magically forced into his basket. I could not escape! Help me! Someone!

FITCHER

Fitcher carried her away to his magnificent house, deep in the middle of a dark, dank forest.

(Tired from the heavy load.)

At last, pretty one, we have reached your new home.

(He waves his hand; SISTER is released. FITCHER turns away from her.)

SISTER (OLDEST)

Do not harm me! Please, let me go back home, my sisters will miss me so!

(SISTER tries to open a door.)

FITCHER

The locks are enchanted. Only I may pass outside these doors.

(FITCHER faces her, now a handsome man.)

SISTER (OLDEST)

You look different... somehow...

FITCHER

Please accept my many apologies, dear girl, for the means by which I brought you here. I intend no harm.

SISTER (OLDEST)

Then what is it you do intend?

FITCHER

Only to be your friend, at least during our beginning. In the future, something more. At least, so I hope.

(He holds out his hand; SISTER does not take it.)

I can provide you with whatever you desire. Just say what it is that you wish, and it shall be yours.

SISTER (OLDEST)

A new pair of shoes. Mine are worn.

(Aside.)

This Fitcher but waved his hands, and instantly a pair of shiny, golden shoes appeared on my feet!

(Moving away.)

It will take more than gold to earn my heart.

FITCHER

Ah, very shrewd, I expect nothing less. The same is also true for me. We must come to trust the other. Completely.

(He holds out his hand to her. SISTER gingerly takes it.)

SISTER (OLDEST)

Is that when this door will open? When you trust in me?

FITCHER

(Turning her chin towards him.)

A king has sent an urgent summons, so I must journey off for a few days. I will leave you these keys, the keys to my house. You may go everywhere inside, except for one room. This little key opens it. I forbid you to go into this room, on pain of death.

(FITCHER hands SISTER the keys. He then puts one hand firmly on her neck.)

I then but ask one thing more. Preserve this egg carefully for me, carry it with you at all times. For if you lose it, a great misfortune shall arise. For both of us.

(SISTER takes the egg.)

SISTER (OLDEST)

I... I will do as you ask.

FITCHER

Then the house is yours. Enjoy it, my new darling!

(FITCHER retreats.)

SISTER (OLDEST)

When he was gone, I went all round the large house, from its bottom to its very top. He did not lie. Each room shone with silver and gold!

FITCHER

Then she came to the forbidden door. She tried to pass it by, but her curiosity brought her back to the door again and again.

SISTER (OLDEST)

I examined the small key; it looked like any other.

FITCHER

She then put it in the keyhole...

SISTER (OLDEST)

I'll turn it just a little.

FITCHER

And with that, the door sprang open! She crossed its threshold.

SISTER (OLDEST)

There were the sounds of dripping water, at least I thought it was as such at first. But then I saw...

FITCHER

A great basin stood in the middle of this room. In it, young girls lay, dead and hacked to pieces.

SISTER (OLDEST)

There was so much blood in the basin that the arms and legs and heads floated about!

FITCHER

Unable to look away from the grisly display, she backed into a block of wood. A gleaming ax was stuck into it! Startled, she jumped away from the ax, and bumped her hand against the basin.

SISTER (OLDEST)

The egg! It fell in!

FITCHER

She reached into that bloody vessel, frantically throwing aside limbs and hearts, until at last, she recovered the egg.

SISTER (OLDEST)

He must not know that I came in here!

FITCHER

Quickly she locked the horrible room and washed the blood from her dress. The egg, however...

SISTER (OLDEST)

That spot still remains! I thought I but just cleaned it!

FITCHER

No matter how much she washed and scrubbed, spots of blood would appear on the shell again, in an instant. Then Fitcher returned.

(As FITCHER.)

The egg. Show it to me. Come now, the egg!

(Tearfully, SISTER hands it to him.)

You have gone into the forbidden room against my will. So, you shall enter it again, but now against your will.

SISTER (OLDEST)

I am sorry, please...

FITCHER

Thy life is ended!

(He grabs her by the hair.)

SISTER (OLDEST)

He then dragged me back inside the forbidden room! He pulled my head over the block. No, please...

FITCHER

Fitcher then used the ax to cleave off her head. He then hewed her body into pieces. Her blood filled the basin with red!

(As FITCHER.)

Another disobedient girl! Can none obey the rules? Very well. I shall fetch myself the second.

SISTER

Once again transformed into the beggar, he returned to our house.

(As Middle Sister.)

Here you are—oh!

(Aside.)

Now I, the Middle Sister that nobody ever pays any attention to, was magically forced into his basket!

FITCHER

Here we are, my new beauty.

(Releasing SISTER.)

You must believe me, dear girl, when I tell you that this house is yours.

(He holds her tightly around her waist.)

SISTER (MIDDLE)

Mine? Really? Nothing is ever mine.

FITCHER

(Speaking closely to her face.)

Here are the keys to let you about. You may go anywhere inside, except for one room. But one thing more. Keep this egg safe.

SISTER (MIDDLE)

(Kissing him on the cheek.)

I shall do exactly as you ask.

FITCHER

Fitcher thought that perhaps at long last, she was the one!

SISTER (MIDDLE)

But I too allowed myself to be led by my curiosity. I opened the door to the bloody chamber.

FITCHER

(Grabbing SISTER.)

You disobeyed me! The egg has a stain!

SISTER (MIDDLE)

Then I too, fell under Fitcher's sharp ax!

FITCHER

Chopping her from limb to torso, he threw her parts into the basin, where her blood mingled with that of the Oldest Sister.

(As FITCHER.)

Another disobedient girl! Can none of you obey the rules? Very well. The Youngest.