

HYNDE HORN AND THE KING'S DAUGHTER

An adaptation of the Scottish legend, "HYNDE HORN"

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HYNDE HORN AND THE KING'S DAUGHTER

Characters

HYNDE HORN

PRINCESS JEAN

QUEEN GAVINA – Jean's mother

KING AYLMER - Jean's father

ELSPETH – The nanny

ANNIS – The scullery-maid

BEGGAR

AMBASSADOR

PORTERS

Setting:

Scene 1 – The Palace Hall

Scene 2 – The Palace Hall

Scene 3 – The Palace Garden

Running Time: 20 minutes.

Props List:

Cloth, needles (Gavina, Elspeth, Jean)

Ring (Jean)

Tray, cups, teapot, blanket, cloth, bucket, pitcher (Annis)

Little silver wand (Hynde Horn)

Staff (Beggar)

Synopsis

Hynde Horn, a young prince found by King Alymer in a boat pushed ashore, is brought to the palace where the lonely Princess Jean lives. The gentle lad and the princess become true friends and when they grow up, they fall in love. Before acquiescing to the wedding, King Aylmer wants Hynde Horn to avenge his father's death and get his kingdom back. After seven years, when the lad seems to have forgotten Jean and she is about to be betrothed to a very rich prince, Hynde Horn returns...

SCENE 1 – The Palace Hall

Hynde Horn And The King's Daughter

(GAVINA and ELSPETH are embroidering on the sofa, JEAN is embroidering by the window.)

GAVINA: *(Looks at JEAN, sighs.)* I wish my dear Jean wasn't always so sad.

ELSPETH: She's too lonely, Your Majesty; all the toys in the world aren't enough to make a child happy if she hasn't anyone to play with.

GAVINA: I thought the new pony would cheer her up a little.

ELSPETH: How could it? Who will she ride with?

(ANNIS enters, places the tray on the table.)

ANNIS: Your tea, Your Majesty. *(Serves the tea.)*

GAVINA: Thank you, Annis. Come, Elspeth; you, too, Jean, it's time for our cup of tea.

JEAN: *(Shows her embroidery.)* Look, mother, look.

GAVINA: How lovely, dear, let Nanny see it too.

(JEAN shows it to ELSPETH.)

ELSPETH: Very good, very good, indeed.

JEAN: *(Frowns.)* If only I could play with some friends instead of spending my time all by myself.

GAVINA: You are a princess, Jean, and it's difficult to find companions that are not of less noble blood.

JEAN: I wish I were just an ordinary girl, mother.

(AYLMER enters with porter. They are sustaining HYNDE.)

AYLMER: Hurry, hurry, help us lay the lad on the sofa.

ELSPETH: Good grief!

GAVINA: What happened, my Sire?

JEAN: Oh my, he looks dead.

ELSPETH: A blanket, Annis, a blanket.

(ANNIS rushes out.)

(HYNDE is laid on the sofa. ANNIS returns with the blanket and covers him.)

ELSPETH: I need a wet cloth now. Quick, Annis, quick. *(Places her ear against his heart.)*

JEAN: Will he die, Nanny?

(ANNIS runs in with the cloth.)

ELSPETH: He'll make it, Your Highness, he will. *(Puts the cloth on his forehead.)*

AYLMER: Cheer up, child, it's nothing but a swoon caused by the cold and the wet. Our old Elspeth will surely get him back on his feet faster than you think. *(To PORTER.)* Thank you, my good man.

(PORTER bows and exits followed by ANNIS.)

GAVINA: Where did you find him, Sire?

AYLMER: My huntsmen and I were riding by the shore when we saw the lad lying unconscious in a boat washed up there.

JEAN: *(Moves by HYNDE's side.)* How handsome he is.

HYNDE: *(Turns his head.)* Oh... oh, my head...

JEAN: Mother, Nanny, he's coming back to his senses.

AYLMER: I told you.

HYNDE: *(Sits up slowly, looks around.)* Where... where am I?

AYLMER: In my kingdom, young man. I am King Aylmer of Scotland.

HYNDE: Of Scotland?

AYLMER: My men and I rescued you from certain death.

HYNDE: I am most grateful, Sire.

GAVINA: Who are you, lad?

Hynde Horn And The King's Daughter

HYNDE: My name is Hynde Horn and I am a king's son.

JEAN: And I am Princess Jean, the king's daughter.

ALYMER: Where is your kingdom, Hynde Horn?

HYNDE: In the faraway East. My father was King Allof. He reigned there until the wicked king Mury killed him. My mother, Queen Godyet, died while we were trying to escape.

ELSPETH: Poor boy.

HYNDE: I was caught prisoner and King Mury ordered his men to put me in a boat and push it out into the sea where I would die of thirst and hunger.

GAVINA: A truly sad story.

JEAN: So you are Prince Hynde Horn.

HYNDE: Well, I ought to be King Horn if that cruel king hadn't taken my kingdom. So I'm simply Hynde Horn, as my people have always called me.

JEAN: A strange name, indeed.

HYNDE: It is an old word that means gentle I've been told.

JEAN: (*Claps her hands.*) That's how we'll call you until you prove you're not worth it.

GAVINA: I'm sure the lad is as gentle as he looks, dear.

AYLMER: Hynde Horn shall dwell in the palace until he has completely recovered and becomes old enough to go and get his kingdom back.

HYNDE: Thank you, Sire.

AYLMER: My steward, Baron Athelbras will train him in all knightly accomplishments and our old minstrel, Thamile will teach him how to play the harp.

HYNDE: I've always loved singing, but never played an instrument.

JEAN: You do have a very nice voice, Hynde Horn.

AYLMER: (*To JEAN.*) From now on you will have a trustful companion, but we better let the boy rest now, for he must be dead tired. Come, my dear Gavina, Elspeth.

(GAVINA, ELSPETH exit. JEAN lingers behind.)

AYLMER: *(As he exits.)* You, too, Jean, come along.

JEAN: Just a minute, father. *(To HYNDE.)* I simply wanted to tell you how glad I am that you are here.

HYNDE: I've been a most lucky guy, indeed.

JEAN: We'll be great friends, won't we? I've never had any playmates up to now.

HYNDE: You bet. If you wish, I'll teach you how to ride as I can do it quite well.

JEAN: I'd be happy to ride with you, Hynde Horn.

HYNDE: I can also teach you hawking for I'm very good at training falcons too.

JEAN: Wow! That sounds great.

HYNDE: Funny, I've always wanted a little sister as sweet and pretty as you.

JEAN: I hope you will stay for a very long time...

HYNDE: *(Takes her hands.)* I'll be your humble servant as long as you wish, my dear little princess.

(Lights fade.)

Scene 2 – The Palace Hall

(A few years later. ELSPETH is sewing. GAVINA enters.)

GAVINA: Where is Princess Jean, Elspeth?

ELSPETH: With Hynde Horn. They're always together, Your Majesty. The lad has been a true blessing for her.

GAVINA: Indeed. I've never seen my daughter so rosy and happy.

ELSPETH: Everyone in the kingdom hopes they will marry someday. The boy has conquered all hearts during these years.

GAVINA: (*Smiles.*) Jean has just told me that Hynde Horn wants to talk to the king.

ELSPETH: Do... do you believe he will ask His Majesty for her hand?

GAVINA: I do, Elspeth, I do. They have become so fond of each other.

ELSPETH: Better for the princess to wed someone we all love and know than a stranger.

GAVINA: (*Nods.*) Oh yes, far, far better.

(*JEAN, HYNDE enter happily.*)

JEAN: Mother, Nanny, we had such fun riding through the forest.

HYNDE: Our Jean has become a truly good rider, Milady.

JEAN: Thanks to you, Hynde Horn.

(*AYLMER enters.*)

AYLMER: I have been informed that you wanted to talk to me, young man.

HYNDE: Yes, Your Majesty.

GAVINA: Shall we take leave?

HYNDE: No, no, please stay.

AYLMER: Well, lad?

HYNDE: Thanks to your kindness, Sire, I had the joy to spend these years with you and (*Looks at JEAN.*) with the dearest and most beautiful maiden I've ever seen.

GAVINA: How sweet.

AYLMER: Get along, get along.

HYNDE: What I really want to say is that... I... I have fallen in love with your daughter and would do anything to make her happy should you honour me with her hand.

AYLMER: Hum... so you want to marry Princess Jean...

HYNDE: With your consent, Sire.

