

**The Brave Fisherman, the One-eyed and the One-eared Daughters**  
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Once upon a time there lived a fisherman and his wife, in a small hut. The hut was facing a big blue sea and giving its back to a dark forest. The fisherman was happy, but the wife grew sad because she was unable to bear children. Her fisherman decided to go and look for a magical potion that would make her bear children. He took off riding his horse and was soon headed on his way. He carried with him three strands of hair that belonged to his wife as a token so that he would remember her along his journey.

The forest was dark and blurry such that he couldn't see anything. He rode on his horse for a long time, or a short time, and decided to take a rest. Not far from that thought, he suddenly saw a hut on top of a hill peaking just slightly through the foggy woods. The fisherman had heard before that this kind of hut belonged to a woman of evil doing and witchcraft. The witch was known as Baba Yaga. The fisherman knocked on the door and soon was brought in. Baba Yaga asked him: "What brought you here, brave man?" The fisherman replied: "My wife. My wife is desperate and in need of your help." Baba Yaga then said: "Explain to me your matter but don't fear my missing ear." The fisherman was frightened and took few steps back because he never seen such a horrible scar. The fisherman then explained his wife's need for the magical potion which would make her happy and bear children.

The witch had a big coffer that held many different sized potions of all kind. The witch was unable to find the fertility bottle, and instead, she started counting the bottles, organizing and sorting them in a new manner. The witch then advised the fisherman to leave immediately for she was growing a temper. However, Baba Yaga told him that his wife was cursed. She also

advised him on how he could get that one-of-a-kind magic potion. The fisherman took the witch's advice and headed for her sister's hut.

When the fisherman was finally there, the sister asked: "What brought you here, brave youth?" The fisherman replied: "Your sister. My wife. My wife is desperate and in need of your help." The sister said: "Explain the matter, brave man, but don't fear my missing eye." The fisherman was frightened and stepped back. Then he reassembled his courage to look at the ugly witch's face and explained to her his matter. The fisherman told the witch that his wife was unable to bear a child because of a curse. The second sister also had a big coffer that held many different sized potions from all kind, looking exactly like her sister's. She, too, became angry and started counting the bottles, ordering the fisherman to leave immediately. The fisherman grew angry, too, and ordered the witch to give him the magical potion even if it demanded peeling the other eye out of her face and turning her blind. She, however, told him to pay a visit to yet another sister for she was older and wiser.

When the fisherman reached the third sister's hut, she asked him: "What brought you here, brave youth?" The fisherman replied: "Your sisters. My wife. My wife is desperate and in need of your help." The sister said: "Explain the matter brave man but don't fear my wrinkled face." The witch was old and wrinkled but the fisherman wasn't scared of her at all. The witch told the fisherman to bring her from the sea: a fish's tail, shell powder and a golden seahorse, from land: crystal powder, a butterfly's head, from his wife's hair three strands and from the fisherman three drops of blood. The witch was absent for a short time or a long time and then, when she finally showed up, she had already made the potion. However, before the fisherman

left she warned him that his wife must use the potion only while bathing and only if the moon was at its fullest.

The fisherman left the witch's hut and headed home. The night had fallen. It was dark because the moon wasn't a full one yet. When the fisherman arrived at his hut, his wife was overjoyed. She took the potion immediately and bathed with it. She didn't pay attention to the phase of the moon.

*"Let it be a girl or let it be a boy*

*Just a wee one you will bring my heart joy.*

*Fill up this womb with baby's life*

*Oh night, hear my heartfelt cries.*

*I am strong and I am worthy*

*To lead this baby on its life journey.*

*And so tonight bring this child into me*

*This is my lost longing, so leave it be!"*

*(I, changed to fit scene)*

Soon enough the wife was pregnant. She then delivered two daughters. One of the daughters had an only ear, which was on her neck and the other had an only eye, which was in the middle of her face. The wife was once again worried. She was worried that no rich grooms would marry her daughters and would be disgusted at what they looked like.

One day the fisherman was outside sailing his little boat, trying to catch what luck has prepared for him from all sorts of fish. The fisherman set up his equipment, checked the safety of his fishnet and his fishing pole and then decided to sail further away from the shore and his

house. Then suddenly, it started storming and the winds began blowing from all directions. The sea played with the fisherman's boat and threw the fisherman out of it.

Meanwhile, two sailors were sailing on a big ship, fighting against the strong winds in order to find where they were in the endless sea. The sailors spotted the fisherman and saved him. The fisherman was familiar with the area and guided them to his house. When the wife heard the door knocking, she answered it and welcomed the sailors in with food and drinks. When the sailors, however, were introduced to the two daughters, they were stunned at what they saw. They were eating food and gazing at the two maidens; food was falling out of their mouths and put back in.

The next morning that fisherman decided to reward the two sailors for saving his life. He was thinking that he should reward them with the few pearls he had collected from one of his journeys that day but the sailors refused saying that they wanted to marry his daughters instead. They said that they had been all around the world-- looked in sea and land-- but never had seen anybody or anything that resembled the two daughters.

The first sailor then took the one-eared maiden aside and asked her: "Tell me my lady, why should I marry you?" The one eared maiden responded by saying that she has an ear that allows her to sense what is going to happen before it actually does. That way she can protect his house from the evil. Then, the second sailor asked the one-eyed maiden saying: "Tell me my lovely maiden, why should I marry you?" The one eyed maiden responded saying that she had an only eye so that it could help her see the heart of things. That way she can focus on the more important matters. The wedding was held the next day and the wife was happy once again.

This is the story as I was told it happened. I was at their wedding. There was beer and wine; it touched my lips but never went through my mouth.

## **Bibliography**

1. <http://members.tripod.com/~kittyshaman/fertilspell2.htm> Accessed 2003-04-16