

VÖR:

Just watch.

WHITE:

Then the mysterious stranger says 'I will grant your wish if you pay me just one dollar.' 'Wow, just one dollar', says the adventurous girl. 'Yes' says he, 'but before I grant your wish and transport you away from your terrible life of homework and maths tutors and tidying your room, you must sign this contract.' 'A contract', says the curious girl, 'what is that?' 'A simple piece of paper', says the helpful stranger, 'with simple words which say that in return for one dollar, your heart's desire will be granted. With some extra bits about health and safety.' Without a signed contract, he says, he will get into trouble again. The girl, not wanting anybody to get into trouble as it is no fun at all, pulls out her favourite purple pen with the fluffy end and writes her name clearly at the bottom, just where the magical stranger is pointing. There she says, 'now what?' The stranger rolls up the contract and puts it in one of his many pockets. 'Now to business', says he. 'Do you have a dollar?' 'Yes' says the girl, who has been saving for this very sort of thing, and hands over a dollar. 'Now, state your wish... but be very careful with your words.' 'Well...', says the girl as she thinks, not being very careful at all with her words. 'Done', says the instantly-annoying stranger. And, would you believe it, a well appears right there in her room! With a round brick wall and a pointed roof and a bucket hanging down and a big deep drop, right through the middle of her house, all the way to the water that she can just see shining at the bottom. 'Oh', says the surprised girl, 'my mum and dad are NOT going to be happy about this.' 'Ha ha haaa' says the stranger who changes before her startled eyes into.... none other than the Demon King! 'No, not you', says the startled girl, 'not again!' 'At last', says he, 'you are mine! According to the contract you signed, you must do everything I say. Every little thing that you do from now on will be at my command.' 'I will not', says the bold and defiant girl. 'You will', says he... but not from his mouth which did not move, but from within her own head... 'you signed the contract!' And from that moment on he was always there, a voice in her head telling her what to do. Even when she was in the toilet! Sometimes it was helpful, like explaining the appearance of the well to her dad. Sometimes it got her into fights at school...

OGHMA:

(Loud, offstage) Sophia? Where are you? Have you finished your homework?

WHITE:

...But mostly it got her into fights with her mum. (Shouting to offstage mum) No, not yet. Do you want to hear a story?

OGHMA:

(Offstage) No, I do not want to hear a story. I want you to do your homework. (Irritated) Get that daughter of yours to do what she's told!

TIW:

(Through the mic) Go back to sleep. Back to sleep now. No need to think about this. Back to sleep.

ULLR:

(Offstage) What's up? What's she doing?

OGHMA:

(Offstage) What do you think?! I am not going to have a child of mine living under a bridge. Why don't you do something useful - for once in your life - and sort her out.

TIW:

(Through the mic) Back to sleep now.

The spotlight on WHITE and the projection fade to black. WHITE makes her way back through, shuts herself in her cage, lies down and goes back to sleep. ERIS has watched all of this quietly. There is a moment of quiet.

VÖR:

She stays.

TIW

moves into ERIS' personal space.

TIW:

You will do what I say and nothing else. You will sit there and do nothing. Nothing at all. You will not speak, you will not move. Nothing!