

# *The Farmer's Daughter*

**The Farmer's Daughter** was produced by studio.tv.film.GmbH for MDR based in Germany. **The Farmer's Daughter** is one of the most famous fairy tales by the Brothers Grimm. It is about a very smart girl, the king and a big love. The young farmer's daughter is given a riddle to solve by the king: "Come to see me, not dressed, not undressed, not naked, not riding, not walking, not driving, not at night or day, come with a present and without." If she solves it, the king promises not only to release her father from prison, but also to marry her.

**The Farmer's Daughter** was one of the PRIX JEUNESSE INTERNATIONAL 2010 finalists in the "7-11 Fiction" category.

## International experts' opinions

The international experts were greatly impressed by the program and praised it very highly. "I thought Farmer's Daughter was wonderful" (female expert, Scotland). "*The Farmer's Daughter* is special like a Hallmark special" (female expert, Jamaica). "It is an extraordinary successful piece of entertainment, which has first class culture behind it – brilliant in that way" (male expert, Germany).

The international experts were very impressed with the characters. "I thought the actors were great" (female expert, UK). "The casting is absolutely superb. Those actors are all top notch" (male expert, Germany). "The characters that had so much depth" (female expert, Germany). More specifically, the main female protagonist was well appreciated. "I was quite happy with the main character" (female expert, Korea). "She was a fantastic kind of female role model – and lots of brilliant themes" (female expert, Scotland). Her character broke a number of gender stereotypes, a quality which was very much appreciated by the international experts. In the end also the princess was accepting the way she was without changing herself to please the king. This was quite a refreshing change from the popular stereotypical fairy tales. "I loved the idea of being clever and that it is presented as a good thing" (female expert, UK). "You see the main characters always skinny, very slim, but this one is really herself – being strong – not so slim" (female expert, Korea).

The script and editing of the program was found equally impressive by the experts. Although the program was one hour long, they felt that time just seemed to fly. The pieces really fit well together and "the script was really good" (female expert, Norway). "You were just swept away and then it was the end. It was one hour – wow – it was very nice" (female expert, Denmark).



Figure 1: A farmer and his daughter live in poverty.



Figure 2: Knowing the King's interest in astronomy, the farmer's daughter builds a roof of plants.



Figure 3: The farmer is summoned to explain the riddle and grants land.



Figure 4: The farmer is imprisoned because the King suspects he lies about a gold pestle.



Figure 5: The farmer's daughter solves the riddle and King promises to marry her.

The experts suggested that the program had an universal appeal as everyone across the world is familiar with fairy tales and stories associated with princesses. Some also felt that certain stereotypes could actually work in a program like this. “But when you put it in a fairy tale, you can use them and move them a little bit. Then they can symbolise something more” (female expert, Sweden).

The program depicted the tradition of central Europe which was appealing to international experts. However, one concern that was raised related a doubt of whether children today would be interested in seeing something that might be perceived as old fashioned and traditional. “I don't know whether it is something that modern children still watch” (female expert, UK).

Overall though, the international experts admired all aspects of the program as was summed up by a female expert from Slovenia: “It was really well done, very well acted; it was not a cliché – though it was true, clear fairy tale and a lot of humour- good characterisation”.



Figure 6: The King and the farmer's daughter fall in love.



Figure 6: The King gets angry and orders the daughter to leave.



Figure 7: The farmer's daughter finally resolves their misunderstanding and they get married.

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