

## **Prologue**

Voices are telling that the audience is going to hear a new version of the old story about an orphan girl and a landlady's daughter.

Those voices belong to actors Ģirts Jakovļevs and Esmeralda Ermale – the leading actors who played the main characters Uldis and Baiba in the movie of 1973 by Riga Film Studio. Playing music composed by Imants Kalniņš specifically for the movie.

## **Scene 1**

Early morning at the flourmill. Girls have gotten up early because the Landlady's daughter Zane is expecting suitors today. Her aunt Orta is teasing all the girls, and particularly Zane for being excited. Baiba is worried about the rising wind over the Daugava River. And she turns out to be right – the wind breaks the large fir tree in the yard into half. At the same time, boatmen of the Daugava River breaks in the flourmill – Uldis, betrothed to Zane and his friend Didzis, son of a wealthy landlord. Zane and Anda hurries to get dressed in their festive attire. Baiba and Orta stay at the flourmill. The room is quite dark, and therefore Uldis mistakes Baiba for Zane. She manages to free herself from his hands but he catches her, trying to kiss her. She runs away, leaving him intrigued.

## **Scene 2**

An old bride searching ritual – boys are pretending to search for a suitable bride among many girls. Suddenly, Uldis is demanding to show the girl that is hiding. Zane and her mother are unpleasantly surprised. She doubts that Uldis is the best match for her daughter Zane because she finds him to be fierce and badly-behaved. Zane claims that she only will marry Uldis. During the ritual girls are mocking Gatiņš, a limp-legged servant in the farm. Baiba is defending him and Uldis recognises her as the girl who he kissed in the dark room. He passionately claims that he is going to marry Baiba because she is too worthy to marry a creep like Gatiņš.

## **Scene 3**

Gatis is encouraging Baiba to run away with him. She refuses because she has lost her heart and she cannot fight the wind.

Didzis is trying to convince Uldis that the poor girl is not worthy of being married.

There are many other girls if he no longer desires to marry Zane and Baiba refuses to marry him.

Orta promises Uldis to arrange a meeting with Baiba, and instructs him to hide while she is going to find Baiba who is picking berries.

Zane comes in looking for Uldis, begging him not to play with their happiness and leave Baiba alone. Uldis is assuring her that he is just doing it in spite and ask her to grant him more freedom.

Orta arranges a work for Zane and Anda, and calls Baiba, convincing her that everyone else is gone.

Uldis is amazed by Baiba's beauty and shyness, but he respects that and slowly approaches Baiba who is attracted to his masculinity.

When Baiba agrees to marry him, Uldis announces it to the Landlady, Zane and Anda.

Baiba is disgraced. Furthermore, she is aware that Uldis is betrothed to Zane, so she takes of her kerchief in front of all people and faints from anxiety and shame. Uldis feels that his pride is hurt so he claims to marry Baiba anyway – whether she agrees it or not.

#### **Scene 4.**

Ciepa, a middle-aged single maid is provoking others to gossiping about Baiba, Zane and Uldis. She is accusing Baiba of chasing Uldis without feeling ashamed. Ciepa shuts up only as the Landlady comes in.

Gatiņš appears trying to comfort Baiba but she rejects him. He has mixed feelings, on the one hand, he is in love with her, on the other hand – his feels humiliated and hurt.

The Landlady, Anda and Zane are instructing Didzis to persuade Uldis who is acting in spite of everyone. Didzis is completely drunk and says that he cannot help because Uldis is going to do whatever he wants. Zane runs away. Anda hugs the confused Dzidzis, and he is also interested in the girl who is taking the first step herself.

Baiba is alone, talking to her deceased mother and the sun because she has no one to talk to. Gatiņš appears, once again asking her to run way with him. Baiba confesses him as her childhood's friend that she is in love with Uldis.

Zane is trying to persuade Uldis one more time. Uldis turns her down. Zane is putting a curse on Uldis and Baiba – if Uldis is unwilling to see her beauty, he will never see the beauty of Baiba, because his eyes will always be full of tears.

Uldis is looking for Baiba but she refuses to come out from her shelter. She feels ashamed because of the situation and her feelings. Uldis is teasing her, saying that he is going to marry Zane. Baiba appears. Uldis is holding her in his arms, calling the Landlady and Zane. The Landlady realises that Orta has helped Baiba and Uldis to meet each other. She first banish Orta, and then puts a powerful curse on Uldis and

Baiba... Zane runs away completely terrified. Uldis asks Baiba to get on his boat. Baiba is ready to leave, asking for a permission to put on her wedding clothes.

### **Scene 5**

Steep bank of the Daugava River. Zane is getting to jump off the bank into the water to kill herself in desperation. She doubts for a second, and suddenly Baiba appears. Baiba has come up with a plan to fix everything – is going to leave. She makes a promise to Zane that she is going to work as a maid for her relatives who lives in another region. When she will be gone, Uldis will settle down and marry Zane. However, it is obvious that Baiba's true intention is to kill herself. Zane believes her. She also believes Baiba who tells her that she is going to say goodbye to Uldis. Poetical monologue of Baiba at the bank of the Daugava River. She is talking about the Mother Night (the Death) who shall lay the wedding sheets for her ... Uldis come in, being happy seeing her near his boat. Baiba stops him, telling him to be patient as they are going to be together. He gives her crown back. Gatiņš appears on the stage, attacking Uldis. He pushes him away and Gatiņš accidentally falls, most likely to death. Orta accuses Uldis for killing Gatiņš. People runs on the stage. Uldis announces loudly that he and Baiba are leaving in a moment. Zane misunderstands the situation and thinks that Baiba has backstabbed her. Baiba says that she is taking her life into her own hands. She feels ashamed for making three other lives miserable, namely, Orta has been banished from the home where she had lived all her life, Gatiņš is dead and Zane is willing to kill herself ... Baiba's pure and virtuous moral does not allow her build her happiness on someone else's unhappiness, so she jumps into the Daugava and drowns. Uldis takes her body with him on the boat and sails away to the sea towards his death.