

# The Devil's Looking-Glass

## SYNOPSIS

Massachusetts, 1691.

Goody Jacoby, a poor spinster forced to make a living as a blacksmith, is astonished to pull a demon out of the fires of her forge. He offers her a better life, but she'll have none of his bargains. Dickon tries a second time to catch up Jacoby through Rachel Hawthorne, and her fascination with Goody's looking-glass, which Rachel believes to be a "Glass of Truth" in which people see each other as they truly are. Clearly fascinated with black magic, Rachel tests her fiancé, Richard, in the glass. Rachel is sent home by her guardian, Justice Hawthorne, who tries to intimidate Goody Jacoby with accusations of witchcraft. Hawthorne hopes to run Goody out of town to keep Rachel away from black magic...and to keep his secret past with Goody from leaking out. Goody Jacoby is furious that Hawthorne continues to tarnish her name, and vows revenge, which is music to Dickon's ears. Dickon assists Goody in conjuring a scarecrow to life, in order to fob him off as Hawthorne's bastard son by her, now come of age and fortune. But Dickon and Goody discover that their pumpkinhead-son has plans of his own when he falls in love with Rachel and duels Richard in order to have her for his own. One glance in the devil's looking-glass, however, and the scarecrow sees that he is not a man at all, but a mere instrument of revenge. It is enough to make him turn his back on life...but he has a few rights to wrong before he is through.

Based on a story by Nathaniel Hawthorne and a play by Percy MacKaye.