



**“He Don’t Wanna Do Right If It Means
Living Without The Hands”**

by Sarah Smith Ducksworth

At the end of his work day,
He wants, needs and receives
Delicate hands

Thinly veined
Long tapering fingers
Smooth pink nails
Finely patterned palms with long lifelines.

These hands caress, arouse and excite.
They are expert in erotic pleasure.
They are eager manipulators for treasure.
They take more than they give.

Sated and empty handed,
He leaves his palace of pleasure.
Guilty and ashamed but outwardly bold,
He goes home.

Hands at the kitchen stove stir his dinner.
They are worn hands.

Heavily veined;
Short stubby fingers;
Splintered, uneven nails;
Wrinkled palms with long lifelines.

These hands are roughened
By detergents, scouring powders and
polishes.
They are thickened
By hard labor and osteoarthritis.
They are gnarled by worry and neglect.

These hands no longer pleasure.
They accuse

“He Don’t Wanna Do Right if it Means Living Without the Hands”

What is the significance of the title of the poem?

What besides hands is the speaker talking about?

What poetic device does the poet use in the title.

Describe the poem’s structure. What is the significance of the its structure?

How many characterizers are in the poem? Describe them?

What is the tone of the poem? (The attitude of the speaker?)