

SNOW WHITE
AND THE
SEVEN DWARFS

A PANTOMIME BY

STEPHEN DUCKHAM

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Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

CAST OF CHARACTERS

QUEEN MALEVOLENT
SPIRIT OF THE MIRROR
LORD CHAMBERLAIN
HANDY ANDY
SNOW WHITE
DAME DOITALL
PRINCE RUPERT
HUNTSMAN
SIR NICHOLAS

CHIEF
SMILIE
DOZY
SNOOZY
SNIFFLES
TIMID
GROWLER

CHORUS OF LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COURT
ANIMALS OF THE FOREST

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 THE QUEENS LABORATORY
SCENE 2 THE THRONE ROOM IN THE CASTLE
SCENE 3 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE
SCENE 4 THE BALLROOM
SCENE 5 THE EDGE OF THE FOREST
SCENE 6 DEEP IN THE FOREST (Transformation to the Dwarfs Cottage)
SCENE 7 THE DWARFS COTTAGE/SNOW WHITESqDREAM

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 THE BALLROOM
SCENE 2 THE DIAMOND MINE
SCENE 3 THE DWARFS COTTAGE
SCENE 4 THE QUEENS LABORATORY
SCENE 5 THE EDGE OF THE FOREST
SCENE 6 THE DWARFS COTTAGE
SCENE 7 THE QUEENS LABORATORY
SCENE 8 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE
SCENE 9 THE BALLROOM

c 2013

PRODUCTION NOTES

CHARACTERS

SNOW WHITE	A beautiful young lady of 18. Must be able to sing well and dance.
QUEEN MALEVOLENT	Beautiful but evil, the Queen is Snow White's stepmother. Very striking in appearance she manipulates people with her deadly charm. Age 40/45.
SPIRIT OF THE MIRROR	Lyrical voice as all her lines are in rhyme. Ageless!
DAME DOITALL	Snow White's nurse and friend. The panto dame!
PRINCE RUPERT	Young, very handsome Prince. Must have a good singing voice and be able to move well. Age 22/25.
HANDY ANDY	Comical character. Friend of Snow White's. Must have a good rapport with the audience and a good sense of comedy. Needs a %musical comedy+singing voice and should be able to move well. Age 25/35.
LORD CHAMBERLAIN	Tall, imposing looking character. Easily flustered and usually the butt of Andy's jokes. Singing and dancing optional. Age could be anything between 30 & 55.
HUNTSMAN	At first appearance should look rather fierce, but has a kind heart and is a friend of Snow White's.
CHORUS	Members of the court. Various ages but should be able to sing and move.
CHIEF, SMILIE, DOZY, SNOOZY, SNIFFLES, TIMID & GROWLER	The Seven Dwarf whose names describe their characters.
JUNIOR DANCERS	As spirits of the forest. Forest animals and servants at court.

Note: To reduce the number of people in the pantomime, the Spirit of the Mirror could be voice only and the Huntsman could double as a chorus member.

SCENERY

The settings can be as elaborate or simple as your theatre dictates. Although there are a number of scene changes to move the story along, the scenery need not be complicated. This is a breakdown of how to manage on a limited stage.

The Queen's Laboratory can be played on black tabs with a table containing all her props. If front cloths are available two can be used: one for the Corridor and one for the Edge of the Forest. Otherwise another set of tabs or swipe cloths can work just as well.

The Diamond Mine is a short scene and can also be played on black tabs with added props.

The Ballroom and the Throne Room can be the same set with just a change of furniture. If a cloth is available this could back the scene or else decorative drapes will look just as good.

It may be as well to build the Dwarf's Cottage as a permanent piece at the back of the stage and add the furniture down stage. Only two or three beds need be visible leaving the audience to assume the others continue off stage.

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The transformation is the most complicated scene, but this can be simplified by again using the black tabs as Deep in the Forest with possibly a door piece representing the exterior of the Dwarf's Cottage. As Snow White goes through the door the lights fade out and the door piece is removed as the tabs open.

The placing of musical numbers and who sings them is suggested in the script, but it is up to the director to decide what to use. A word of advice: Pantomime audiences, particularly the younger members, like the story to keep moving, so don't make the musical sequences too long, especially ballads.

I hope you enjoy doing this version of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and have a great success with your production

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONE

SCENE 1 THE QUEENS LABORATORY

INTRODUCTION MUSIC

[The introduction music holds on a chord and a voice over is heard in the darkness.]

VOICE OVER Once long ago in a far off land ruled by a kindly King, there lived a wicked enchantress. When the old King died she became Queen, but cared little for her subjects, having only one burning ambition . to be the most beautiful woman in the land.

[There is a flash of lightning and a crash of thunder as the lights come up on the Queens Laboratory. A table full of containers with bubbling liquid, books and other mysterious objects is DS. The QUEEN stands holding a goblet.]

QUEEN Oh magic potion that has been handed down throughout the ages and developed by all the powers of evil - come to my aid. This delicious elixir brings eternal youth and beauty to whoever drinks it; and only I know the formula! I must be the most beautiful woman in the kingdom. No one can possibly be more beautiful than me. And that is the way it must stay. If anyone dares to challenge my claim to being the most beautiful, I will know about it. For I have a magic mirror that tells me everything. All I have to do is ask and the spirit of the mirror truthfully answers. And now to drink the potion. *[SHE drinks. Thunder cracks.]* Oh that is truly wonderful. I can feel the effects already. Now to ask the Spirit of the mirror to confirm that I am indeed the most beautiful. *[SHE makes a magic pass. A gilt-framed mirror appears from the wing DL.]*
Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is the fairest of us all?

[Through the mirror the SPIRIT appears.]

SPIRIT All powerful Queen it is my task
To answer truthfully what you ask.
From all who dwell in your command,
You are the fairest in the land.

QUEEN *[Laughing.]* The fairest - the most beautiful! Forever and ever. Thank you my precious magic mirror that never lies. *[SHE makes a pass and the mirror and SPIRIT disappear.]* Now I must get back to my court before I am missed. No one must know of this room, nor of the magic potions and spells I have at my disposal. For with all this I am the greatest ruler of the land - and the most beautiful! *[SHE laughs as the lights fade and the scene changes to -]*

SCENE 2 THE THRONE ROOM IN THE CASTLE

[There is a dais with a throne on it. The CHORUS is singing the opening number, which is in celebration of SNOW WHITE'S 18th birthday.]

OPENING NUMBER

[At the end of the number the LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters and calls for silence. HE has a habit of repeating himself.]

LORD CH. Silence, silence! Stop all this at once, I say, stop this at once. What can you be thinking of? I say what can you be thinking of? Singing and dancing in the royal throne room. What will the Queen say? It's giving me quite a turn! Oh it's too much. I say, it's too much!

MAN Oh come on Lord Chamberlain. Don't be such a wet blanket!

LORD CH. Wet blanket? Wet blanket?? You can't go around calling me - the Lord Chamberlain - a wet blanket! Oh it's too much - too much!

WOMAN Don't be such a spoil sport, you old fuddy duddy!

LORD CH. Fuddy duddy? Fuddy duddy?? *[By now he is in a right state.]*
I...You.....Oh it's too much.....

ALL *[With HIM.]*too much!

2nd. MAN But we're celebrating.

LORD CH. Celebrating? Celebrating what?

2nd. WOMAN Today is the Princess Snow White's eighteenth birthday.

LORD CH. What? Today? But it can't be!

ALL It is!

LORD CH. Why, it seemed like only yesterday when the dear old king used to dangle her on his knee. Oh they were happy times. happy times.

3rd. MAN Yes - and then he had to go and marry that dreadful Queen Malevolent. Everyone knew he was doing the wrong thing, but she seemed to have such a hold over him - as though he was spellbound.

LORD CH. After he died she took over ruling the whole kingdom and things have gone from bad to worse - I say, from bad to worse.

3rd. WOMAN She despises Snow White so much and treats her no better than a scullery maid.

4th. MAN So you can see why we're singing and dancing - to cheer ourselves up and celebrate Snow White's coming of age.

4th. WOMAN Today she leaves childhood behind and enters womanhood.

LORD CH. By Jove you're right. We have got something to celebrate. *[ALL agree.]* But if it is a celebration we should have a buffet and some drinks.

1st. MAN Oh that's all taken care of. Handy Andy and Snow White's nurse, Dame Doitall, are in charge of all the catering.

1st. WOMAN Yes, they're down at *[Local supermarket.]* now getting everything we need.

LORD CH. Oh dear that sounds like a recipe for disaster! I say, a recipe for disaster! And if things go wrong the Queen will get angry and make my life a misery. Oh it's all too much - too much! *[There is a lot of noise offstage.]*

ANDY *[Off.]* Out of the way, out of the way. Special delivery.

[HANDY ANDY enters carrying a large box. HE is a likeable fellow and wears a work belt on his costume with various items hanging from it.] Make way there. Mind your backs. *[HE runs straight into the CHAMBERLAIN who falls over. ANDY puts the box down.]*

LORD CH. Look out! You blithering idiot! Oh it's too much - too much!

ANDY Hello everyone. *[To the audience.]* Hello. Have you all come to Snow White's Party? *[Audience reacts.]* Well I'm very pleased to meet you. My name's Handy Andy and I'm in charge around here! *[ALL laugh. CHAMBERLAIN reacts.]* Hello Lord Chamberpot!!

LORD CH. Chamberlain!!

ANDY What are you doing down there?

LORD CH. Getting up!

ANDY You shouldn't be sitting around taking it easy, there's a lot to be done.

LORD CH. *[Getting up.]* I'm not sitting around - you great galumphing oaf. *[HE advances on ANDY and starts to poke him in the chest. ANDY leans back and finally falls to his knees looking up at the CHAMBERLAIN.]* Why ever you were put in charge of the catering arrangements I'd never know. I say I'd never know!

ANDY Just a moment. I hold a very important position in this castle.

LORD CH. Important position?? HA!!

ANDY Yes. I've got a very high office. It's in the loft!

LORD CH. And what is this "high office"?

ANDY I'm a general!

LORD CH. A general??

ANDY Yes. The Queen told me when she gave me the job that I would be a general factotum!

LORD CH. Oh, you are the closest thing to a nincompoop!

[ANDY looks at him, then at the audience and then takes a large step away.]

MAN What have you got in the box, Andy?

ANDY It's Snow White's birthday cake.

WOMAN Oh do let's have a look.

[ANDY opens the box and brings out the smallest cake with one candle on it.]

LORD CH. What on earth... *[HE reads what is on the cake.]* "Congratulations on your golden wedding anniversary"!! That's not very appropriate.

ANDY It's all they'd got at short notice.

LORD CH. Oh really! This is all too.....

ANDY Yes, we know -

ALL too much! Too much! *[The LORD CHAMBERLAIN exits in a huff. ANDY puts the cake back in the box and some of the CHORUS takes it offstage.]*

2nd. MAN But what about everything else?

ANDY Oh don't worry, Dame Doitall is seeing to that. I've bought Snow White a present. It's a beautiful white rose - just like her name. Would you like to see it?

ALL Oh yes.

ANDY All right then. *[HE brings out a tiny plant.]* There!

2nd. WOMAN I don't think much of that for a present. You can hardly see it.

ANDY Well, perhaps if I plant it, it might grow into a big rose bush.

3rd. MAN Look, there's a pot over there. *[HE points to a large pot DR that remains there throughout the show.]*

ANDY Now isn't that handy! *[HE crosses to the pot, takes a small trowel from his belt and plants the rose.]* Nothing's happened!

3rd. WOMAN Maybe you should water it.

ANDY Good idea. *[HE reaches offstage, gets a watering can and waters the plant. It grows rapidly into a lovely bush full of white roses.]* There! Isn't that wonderful? I'm sure Snow White will love it. But no one's to

touch it.

4th. MAN But how are you going to stop people?

ANDY *[Looking at the audience.]* I know. You're all going to be here for a bit, aren't you? *[Audience reacts.]* Well, would you keep an eye on the rose bush for me? *[Reaction.]* Oh that's great. Now all you have to do if you see anyone trying to take a rose is shout out "Oh no, Handy Andy come quickly, someone's trying to steal the lovely white roses you bought as a present for Snow White's eighteenth birthday" *[HE does this in one breath and almost runs out.]* and I'll come on and stop them. Will you do that? *[Reaction.]* No? Why not? *[Reaction.]* It's too long? Well let's shorten it to %Handy Andy+shall we? You know what we're going to do now, don't you? That's right, we're going to have a practice. One of this lot will pretend to take a rose and you call out. *[ANDY crosses DR and exits. One of the CHORUS creeps up to the rose bush and pretends to take a rose. Audience calls out. After a pause ANDY re-enters.]* Have you done it yet? Well, you'll have to be much louder. I might be right on the other side of the palace. Now let's try it again. *[The action is repeated.]* Oh that was much better. Thank you very much. Now I know the roses will be safe for Snow White.

4th. WOMAN And look, here she comes now.

[MUSIC. SNOW WHITE enters.]

S/WHITE Hello everyone.

ALL Hello Snow White. Happy birthday.

ANDY *[Standing in front of the bush.]* Happy birthday Snow White. Look, I've got a present for you. *[HE stands to one side. SNOW WHITE crosses to the bush.]*

S/WHITE Oh Andy, it's beautiful.

ANDY Not half as beautiful as you.

S/WHITE I love it. Thank you. *[SHE kisses him on the cheek. HE goes all weak and staggers about. ALL laugh.]*

MAN But where have you been since this morning?

S/WHITE Queen Malevolent made me clean out her bedroom and then I had to fetch water from the well to do all her washing.

ANDY How can that woman be so wicked to you? You're a Princess. She's just jealous because you're so lovely and she looks like a wrinkled up old prune!

S/WHITE Oh that's not true, Andy. I just wish she liked me a little more. But, I'm not going to let her upset me today. It's my birthday and I can't think of a nicer way to spend it than with you - my dear friends.

SONG . SNOW WHITE, ANDY AND CHORUS

[ALL exit at the end of the song. The sound of bells, sirens and horns is heard offstage. The lights fade out and we see two headlights coming across the stage and DC. The lights come back to reveal DAME DOITALL with a large shopping trolley with headlights on the front. It is stacked up with shopping.]

DAME Oh my goodness! That was a near thing. I've got an out of control trolley! I was just freewheeling down the hill from the town when I charged into the chiropodist, crashed into the chemist, copped off at the cop shop and had a nasty encounter with a cucumber in the Corner Cabin! Still, I'm here safe and sound and with all the things for Aladdinsparty! Oh no! That was last year, wasn't it? *[SHE reverses her speech and movement like rewinding a film.]* I'm safe and sound and with all the things for Snow White's party. Oh, but I've not introduced myself. I'm Dame Doitall, Snow White's nurse and style consultant around the castle! *[SHE shows off the outrageous costume she is wearing.]* Oh I hate working for that wicked Queen *Mad Elephant*, but I couldn't leave my darling Snow White. I've been with her from the day she was born. And now she's a young woman and one day some big hairy brute will come and sweep her off her feet, then she won't need me any more. *[SHE starts to get tearful.]* Mind you, I wouldn't blame her. I'd like some big hairy brute come and whisk me away. Not that I haven't been happily married. My husband was a man of rare gifts. They were so rare I never saw any! But he did have one *great* asset. *[SHE looks at the audience.]* Now now, behave yourselves, this is a family show! As I was saying he did have one great asset. His voice. He had a wonderful singing voice. Many a night he could be heard at the Royal Albert giving his rendition of 'roll out the barrel!' The court composer said his voice should be preserved. Maybe that's why he was always coming home pickled! When he died he left his body to medical science, but medical science contested the will!

[A young CHORUS BOY enters with the DAMES shopping bag.]

BOY Dame Doitall. You forgot your bag.

DAME Oh thank you. This is *[Boys name.]* everyone. He tried to pick me up at *[Local night-club.]* the other night. Offered to show me his Vauxhall Astra! Cheeky young thing! *[BOY hangs his head.]* Off you go now. *[The BOY exits.]* I've got a special treat just for me in here. There's one thing I can never resist - well there are quite a few things really! But one special thing when I go shopping. I have to buy myself a bag of jelly babies. *[Or some other sweet.]* Would you boys and girls like some? Have you been very good? Let's have the lights up and see you. *[House lights come on.]* Oh it's like looking out on a beautiful bed of flowers. Mind you, there's a few old weeds over there!! Well if you've been good I'll share them with you. Who would like some? *[Reaction.]* Oh I think I shall need some help. *[SHE calls.]* Boys.

[CHORUS BOYS and ANDY enter and help throw out sweets to the audience. They then go into the following number. The rest of the CHORUS enter if required.]

SONG - DAME, ANDY AND CHORUS

[At the end of the number, the QUEEN enters.]

- QUEEN What is the meaning of all this noise?
- DAME We're having a party to celebrate Snow White's eighteenth birthday.
- QUEEN A party to celebrate the birthday of a scullery maid!
- ANDY She's not a scullery maid; she's a Princess. And a beautiful Princess at that!
- QUEEN Beautiful? That little girl?
- DAME Oh she's not a little girl any more. At 18 she's a young lady.
- ANDY Yes and certainly the prettiest around this castle.
- QUEEN Oh no she isn't.
- ANDY Oh yes she is. *[There now follows an 'oh no she isn't - oh yes she is' sequence involving the audience. At a suitable moment the LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters in a hurry.]*
- LORD CH. Your majesty, I say your majesty.
- QUEEN Yes? What is it?
- LORD CH. We have a visitor. I say, we have a visitor. Prince Rupert of Ruratainia.
- QUEEN Prince Rupert? Why he's one of the most eligible bachelors for miles around.
- DAME Yes - and drop dead gorgeous as well! Just like *[SHE mentions someone famous but not known for being handsome.]*
- QUEEN Have him announced at once. *[SHE goes to her throne and sits. The CHORUS moves to a position to welcome PRINCE RUPERT.]*
- LORD CH. His Royal Highness, Prince Rupert of Ruratainia.
- FANFARE
- [PRINCE RUPERT enters and ALL bow. HE crosses up to the throne and bows to the QUEEN.]*
- RUPERT Your majesty, how good of you to receive me.
- QUEEN *[Gushing.]* Why, Prince Rupert, it is an honour to have you here at my court. But what is it that brings you here so unexpectedly?
- RUPERT A wheel on my carriage disengaged itself just at the very moment we were passing your castle, so I was hoping to have it repaired and avail myself of your hospitality for the night.

QUEEN But of course my dear Prince. And to celebrate your most welcome visit we shall have a grand party. My court has been preparing for one all day and now we have a guest of honour to make the evening complete.

[EVERYONE is amazed at what SHE has said.]

RUPERT Oh, but I couldn't put you to all that trouble.

QUEEN Nonsense. My subjects will be only too pleased to entertain you, won't you all?

ALL *[Mumbling.]* Yes your majesty.

RUPERT Well if you're quite sure.

QUEEN *[With an eye on the CROWD.]* I am . *[The DAME steps in to object.]* quite sure. *[The DAME steps back keeping her mouth shut.]* If you would like to freshen up I'll have my Lord Chamberlain show you to the guest quarters.

RUPERT Your majesty is too kind.

QUEEN Lord Chamberlain.

LORD CH. If your royal highness would care to follow me. *[The LORD CHAMBERLAIN and RUPERT cross to exit. As RUPERT passes the DAME she makes a big thing of dropping her handkerchief. HE doesn't notice this and continues offstage. ANDY picks up the handkerchief and gives it back to the DAME as HE crosses to the QUEEN.]*

ANDY But that's not fair. The party was for Snow White. *[ALL agree.]*

QUEEN Well now it is for my guest, Prince Rupert - and if anyone doesn't like it then he or she can have a party of their own - in the dungeons! Now get out of here, all of you. *[ALL start to exit.]*

ANDY I don't care what you say. Snow White is still the most beautiful girl in the land. *[The QUEEN goes to chase him off.]*

QUEEN *[To herself.]* The most beautiful? That slip of a girl. Impossible. I'm the most beautiful; my magic mirror tells me so. But just to reassure myself I'll ask it one more time. *[SHE looks round to make sure no-one is around and makes a magic pass. The lights change and the mirror appears.]*

Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is the fairest of us all?

[The SPIRIT appears.]

SPIRIT O mighty Queen I tell you true
The fairest in the land was you.
But another now takes pride of place

Who has beauty, charm and winsome grace.

QUEEN Another? But this cannot be,
For no one is as fair as me.

SPIRIT I do not lie, for as sure as day follows night,
The fairest in the land is Princess Snow White.

[The SPIRIT disappears.]

QUEEN *[In a rage.]* Snow White. Snow White? That little guttersnipe. How dare she claim to be more beautiful than me? I hate that girl. I hate her hair, her eyes, her mouth, even her name. Snow White! *[Screaming.]* Snow White!!

[SNOW WHITE enters.]

S/WHITE Did you call stepmother?

QUEEN You! What did I tell you to do this morning?

S/WHITE To clean your apartments and do the washing.

QUEEN Then why aren't you doing that?

S/WHITE But I've finished.

QUEEN Already? But what about in here? Look at it. It's filthy. *[SHE runs her fingers along the arm of the throne.]* You can write your name in the dust. Now get busy and clean here at once.

S/WHITE But.....

QUEEN At once, did you hear me?

S/WHITE Yes stepmother. *[SHE exits holding back the tears.]*

QUEEN That snivelling little brat! I'll keep her working from dawn 'til dusk. She'll get so worn out and tired that any looks she possesses will soon fade away and then my magic mirror you will tell me once again that I am the fairest in the land. *[SHE makes a pass and the mirror disappears. The QUEEN exits as SNOW WHITE re-enters with a duster and starts to clean the throne.]*

S/WHITE I wish I knew why the Queen hates me so. I've never done anything to offend her. Perhaps if I work really hard and get everything done she'll be a little more kindly towards me. *[SHE works away cleaning the throne as PRINCE RUPERT enters. HE stops and watches her, clearly taken by her beauty. After a moment HE clears his throat. SHE turns.]* OH!

RUPERT Please forgive me, I didn't mean to startle you. I was just er.....allow me to introduce myself, I am Prince Rupert of Ruratainia. *[HE bows.]*

S/WHITE *[Curtseying.]* Prince Rupert, I'm honoured to meet you.

RUPERT *[Raising her.]* And whom do I have the pleasure of addressing?

S/WHITE *[Realising SHE is still holding the duster.]* Me? Oh I'm nobody. *[SHE throws the duster away.]*

RUPERT Anyone as beautiful as you cannot be a 'nobody'. What is your name?

S/WHITE I am called Snow White.

RUPERT Snow White? The Princess Snow White? *[SHE nods.]* But I thought you were just a young girl still at school.

S/WHITE Today is my eighteenth birthday.

RUPERT Then the accident to my carriage, which brought me here, was indeed a fortunate one. If only I had known this was a special day I would have come laden with gifts.

S/WHITE But sir, you have only just met me.

RUPERT I know - and yet I feel as though I've known you all my life.

DUET - RUPERT and S/WHITE

[At the end of the number they are about to kiss when the DAME is heard off stage.]

DAME *[Off.]* Yoo . hoo! *[THEY spring apart as SHE enters followed by the CHORUS.]* There you are dear; I haven't wished you a happy birthday yet.

S/WHITE Thank you so much. Prince Rupert may I present Dame Doitall who has been my nurse and dearest friend since I was a babe.

RUPERT I'm very pleased to meet you, dear lady.

DAME *[Curtseying.]* Oh your royal effluence, charmed I'm sure. *[SHE has trouble getting up.]*

RUPERT Here let me help you. *[HE helps her up and SHE falls into his arms.]*

DAME Oh I say what a big strapping lad you are! *[SHE feels his biceps.]* I bet you don't get many of those to the pound! *[ALL laugh. SHE stands straight as the QUEEN enters followed by the LORD CHAMBERLAIN. S/WHITE eases upstage so as not to be seen by the QUEEN.]*

QUEEN What is going on here?

RUPERT Ah, your Majesty. I was just looking for you to thank you for your hospitality and for organising tonight's party.

QUEEN Not at all my dear Rupert. Now I need something to set off the gorgeous gown I shall be wearing. *[SHE sees the rose bush.]* Ah, the very thing.

[Audience calls out. ANDY enters.]

ANDY 'ere, 'ere. Hands off the rose. That's a present for Snow White.

QUEEN *[Under her breath.]* Snow White!

RUPERT What a fitting gift. A beautiful rose for a beautiful girl.

QUEEN Beautiful??

RUPERT Queen Malevolent, you have a beautiful stepdaughter and I have had the great good fortune to meet her. *[HE brings SNOW WHITE forward.]* The party can't possibly be in my honour tonight, it must be to celebrate Snow White's birthday - and I hope she will grant me the privilege of being her escort for the whole evening.

S/WHITE With all my heart.

[Words fail the QUEEN and she exits in a rage.]

ANDY Well what are we waiting for. Let's get the party underway!

[ALL cheer.]

PRODUCTION NUMBER

[At the end of the number the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 3 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

[A front cloth scene. The LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters.]

LORD CH. Oh my, what a day, I say what a day. First there is a birthday party for Snow White, then Prince Rupert arrives so the party is for him; now it's back to Snow White! I don't know whether I'm coming or going. I say, I don't know whether I'm coming or going! It's all too much! *[HE sees the rose bush.]* Oh what beautiful roses. I'm sure no one would mind if I took one. *[Audience shouts. ANDY enters.]*

ANDY Now now Lord Chambermaid.....

LORD CH. Chamberlain!

ANDYwhatever! What are you doing with the roses?

LORD CH. Well I er...I was just er....

ANDY They're not for you, they're for Snow White - *[HE takes hold of the CHAMBERLAIN'S hand and slaps his wrist.]* - naughty, naughty keep your hands off the roses!!

LORD CH. Stop that. You really must have more respect for my position.

ANDY But I do have respect. Ever since I came to work here I've always looked up to you.

LORD CH. Have you really?

ANDY Yes.

LORD CH. And you've seen a man of distinguished appearance, a noble brow, a figure of authority.

ANDY No. Just two big hairy nostrils!

LORD CH. Oh!! *[The DAME enters.]*

DAME Hello you two. How are preparations going for the party?

LORD CH. Well if certain people would get on with their work instead of creeping about the castle, we might be ready in time.

ANDY And if certain people would stop trying to pinch Snow White's roses.....

LORD CH. I did not try to pinch them.

ANDY Yes you did. My friends saw you - didn't you? *[Audience reacts.]* See!

LORD CH. Oh I've had enough of this. I'm off.

ANDY *[Sniffing.]* I thought something was!
[CHAMBERLAIN exits.]

DAME I don't know. You two. You argue just like an old married couple!

ANDY Oh no. If I was married I wouldn't argue. Especially if I was married to someone as beautiful as Snow White.

DAME Well you can get that idea right out of your head. I think she has already fallen in love.

ANDY Yes. Ever since that Prince Rupert arrived she's had eyes for no one but him. Now I'll never get a look-in!

DAME Oh cheer up, Andy. There're plenty more fish in the sea.

ANDY Who?

DAME Well there's me for instance.

ANDY You??

DAME Why not? I've still got the complexion of a schoolgirl of seventeen!

ANDY Well give it back to her - you're wrinkling it!

DAME You know I always used to be the belle of the ball.

ANDY Pity you lost your clangour!

DAME Oh Andy, I want you to pick me up, whirl me around and drain me dry!

ANDY You don't want me, you want a spin-dryer!

DAME All my teeth are my own you know. It's just that I can't remember where I put them!

ANDY You should marry an archaeologist.

DAME Why?

ANDY They like old relics!

DAME Now you're just being unkind.

ANDY Oh I'm sorry Dame Doitall, but I've always had a soft spot for Snow White and I suppose I always will.

DAME Then why haven't you told her?

ANDY I've tried but I just get tongue-tied and end up by making a fool of myself.

DAME Look, if you really feel that way about her you must summon up the courage.

ANDY I will. I'll summon up the courage.

DAME Be firm, be strong.

ANDY I'm firm, I'm strong.

DAME Be resolute.

ANDY I'm resolute.

DAME Be a man.

ANDY *[Shouting.]* I'm a man!

DUET - ANDY and DAME

ANDY Oh thank you Dame Doitall, I feel so much better now.

DAME Are you ready to tell her how you feel?

ANDY Yes - I'm ready. I'm really, really ready.

DAME Then tell her! *[SHE turns him around to face SNOW WHITE as she enters.]*

S/WHITE Hello!

ANDY *[Spluttering.]* I.....er.....I.....

S/WHITE Oh I'm so happy. This will be the best birthday. At the party tonight Prince Rupert has asked me to dance every dance with him.

DAME Well that's nice dear.

S/WHITE He's so wonderful isn't he? And so handsome. Don't you think so Andy?

ANDY I.....er.....Goodbye! *[HE runs off.]*

S/WHITE Whatever's the matter with him?

DAME Oh he's just remembered he has to return a book to the library. "How to be assertive in ten easy lessons"!

S/WHITE Dame Doitall, would you help me? I've got to find something to wear to the party tonight. Queen Malevolent has not allowed me to have a new dress for such a long time - I don't think I have anything suitable.

DAME Don't you worry yourself. I've got dozens of gorgeous outfits just like this one that you can choose from!

S/WHITE *[Taken aback at the thought of wearing one of the Dames dresses.]*
Oh..er..well...I..

DAME There's a lovely little off the shoulder number that would be perfect for you. I call it my bingo dress.

S/WHITE Bingo dress?

DAME Yes - eyes down for a full house!

S/WHITE That's very kind of you, but I.....

DAME *[Smiling.]* But you would rather have a new one. And so you shall. Come along with me and I'll make you a gown fit for the beautiful Princess that you are.

S/WHITE Oh you are wonderful. Let's go and start right away. *[SNOW WHITE exits dragging the DAME with her. The QUEEN and PRINCE RUPERT enter from the other side of the stage.]*

RUPERT Was that Snow White I saw going down the corridor?

QUEEN No, I don't think so. It was just a scullery maid.

RUPERT I must say your Majesty, she is a charming young lady. I cannot understand why we have not met before.

QUEEN Oh she keeps herself to herself. Quite a little wallflower really. I expect she's conscious of how plain she is.

UPERT Plain? On the contrary. I consider her someone of rare beauty.

QUEEN *[Stunned.]* Beauty?

RUPERT Indeed. Just like one of those roses. I think I'll take one to remind me of her.

[HE crosses to the rose bush. The audience calls out. ANDY runs on and comes face to face with RUPERT.]

ANDY *[Shouting.]* Hands off the roses! *[HE exits as a stunned RUPERT moves away.]*

QUEEN I do apologise, servants with any breeding are so hard to come by these days! Now about Snow White. A rare beauty I think you said?

RUPERT Yes indeed.

QUEEN Don't you think anyone else in the castle has the same quality?

RUPERT Not that I have seen. Since I first set eyes on her I knew that she was the only one for me.

QUEEN *[Seething.]* Really!!

RUPERT And now, if your Majesty will excuse me, I must see how the repairs to my carriage are progressing.

QUEEN Of course. *[RUPERT bows and exits. The QUEEN stomps around the stage, cursing.]* That wretched girl. Am I to be hounded by her name wherever I turn? Am I to be told how beautiful she is by every Prince that comes riding by? No, by thunder. I am the most beautiful in the land and that is the way it must stay. *[SHE stops and thinks.]* And I know just what must be done. *[SHE calls.]* Lord Chamberlain. *[The LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters and bows.]*

LORD CH. You called, your Majesty?

QUEEN Has my chief huntsman arrived back from hunting the wild boar for tonight's feast?

LORD CH. Yes your majesty, a few minutes ago.

QUEEN Tell him I wish to see him immediately.

LORD CH. At once, your Majesty. *[HE exits.]*

QUEEN Prince Rupert looks to be smitten by Snow White. And with that sickly smile all over her face she must be falling in love with him. Well the time has come to put an end to all of that. The girl must be got rid of! She must be destroyed. Only when she is dead can I be sure that my face will be the fairest in the land. But it must look like an accident.

[The HUNTSMAN enters and bows.]

HUNTSMAN You wish to see me your Majesty?

QUEEN Yes my faithful huntsman. I have a special task for you.

HUNTSMAN Whatever you command, I obey, your majesty.

QUEEN Well I am very pleased to hear that. Now listen carefully to my ever word. *[SHE takes a pendant from around her neck and sets it spinning in front of the HUNTSMAN. HE goes into a trance.]* I want you to go out again into the forest. This time take the Princess Snow White with you. Tell her that Prince Rupert wants to see her alone and that you are to escort her in case there are any wild animals around. When you are deep in the forest I want you to take out your knife and kill her! When she is dead I want you to cut out her heart and put it in this silver box. *[SHE takes a silver box from her pocket and hands it to him.]* Bring it back and deliver it only to me. Then I will know she is finally dead.

HUNTSMAN I will do as you command, your Majesty.

QUEEN Then go quickly and carry out my orders. *[Still in a trance the HUNTSMAN exits.]* Ha ha! What a wonderful plan. When Snow White fails to turn up to tonight's festivities Rupert will think she has lost interest in him. Then maybe he will notice the beauty in the mature woman! I must go to my secret laboratory and take some more of the special potion that makes me grow more beautiful by the hour! Oh this will be the crowning glory of all my sorcery. I'll get rid of Snow White and get Prince Rupert for myself! Ha ha.....

[SHE exits laughing as the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 4 THE BALLROOM

[This can be the same as scene 2 without the throne. The CHORUS is on doing a number during which ANDY and the DAME take part. This starts off very sedate and then ANDY goes into an up tempo song and dance.]

DANCE and SONG - ANDY, DAME and CHORUS

[The DAME has on an over the top dress and outrageous hair style. During the dance, which should be very comic, SHE is continually standing on ANDY'S feet. After the number SERVANTS enter with trays of drinks.]

DAME Wasn't that fun? *[ANDY is limping about.]* What's the matter with you? Are you all right?

ANDY I will be when I get the feeling back in my feet!

DAME I've always loved dancing. I had a wonderful teacher you know.

ANDY Who was that, the elephant trainer at Chipperfields?

DAME No, it was that great Russian ballerina Eva Vestoff! She said my Nutcracker had to be seen to be believed!

ANDY I'll be she did!

DAME *[Doing some ballet leaps.]* You know, with my grace a poise, I should be in the corps de ballet! *[SHE bumps into him.]*

ANDY You should be cordoned off!

DAME What about my dress? Do you like it? I got it for a ridiculous figure! 38 - 26 and £2.75 a pound! *[SHE parades about. A few whistles.]* And what do you think about the hair?

ANDY Words fail me!

DAME It was done by Madam Zareena. She's my chiffonier.

ANDY No she's not. She's you coiffeuse.

DAME She's not. She's my chiffonier.

ANDY She's your coiffeuse. A chiffonier is a big old chest with enormous drawers.

DAME Yes, that's her!

[The LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters.]

LORD CH. Her Majesty, Queen Malevolent. I say, her Majesty Queen Malevolent!

FANFARE

[The QUEEN enters. ALL bow and curtsey.]

QUEEN So nice to see you all enjoying yourselves. But where is our guest of honour?

ANDY Snow White hasn't arrived yet.

QUEEN I don't mean Snow White you idiotic imbecile. I mean Prince Rupert.

DAME Well I think he may be looking for her, your Maj. He is to be her escort for the evening.

QUEEN *[Aside.]* That's what he thinks.

DAME Pardon?

QUEEN *[Quickly.]* I think I see him coming now.

LORD CH. His Royal Highness, Prince Rupert. I say . *[RUPERT enters.]* Oh he's here!

FANFARE

[ALL bow and curtsey.]

QUEEN Good evening Prince Rupert. We all thought you had got lost.

RUPERT I do apologise your Majesty, but I was looking for Snow White. I was to escort her here tonight.

QUEEN *[Gushing.]* Oh you know what we young girls are, always forever primping and preening until the last minute. Lord Chamberlain, go to Snow White's room and see what is keeping her.

LORD CH. At once, your Majesty. *[HE exits.]*

QUEEN Would you care for some refreshment?

DAME I don't mind if I do! *[SHE grabs a glass and downs it in one. The QUEEN glares at her then moves up stage talking to RUPERT. The DAME pulls ANDY down stage away from the others.]* You know, Andy, there's something fishy going on here. When I was helping Snow White with her dress this afternoon, she was so excited about tonight she could hardly stand still. It's really odd that she is late arriving.

ANDY Yes. I would have thought she'd have returned from her walk in plenty of time to get herself ready.

DAME Walk? What walk?

ANDY I heard the Huntsman telling Snow White something about the Prince and then they both went off towards the forest.

DAME But why the forest? And besides, the Prince has been supervising the repairs to his carriage all afternoon. I know 'cos I was there helping to tighten the nuts!

[The LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters.]

LORD CH. Your majesty, the Princess Snow White is not in her room.

QUEEN How very odd. Anyhow, we can't wait for her any longer; supper is about to be served. Come along everyone, into the dining hall.

[Some of the CHORUS starts to drift off. The DAME calls to RUPERT.]

DAME Princey dear, could I have a word?

RUPERT Of course Dame Doitall.

DAME Have you seen Snow White in the past few hours?

RUPERT No I haven't. I arrange to meet her here tonight.

QUEEN What is all this about?

ANDY *[To RUPERT.]* I saw Snow White going towards the forest with the Huntsman. I thought she might have been going to see you.

RUPERT No.

QUEEN The Huntsman, eh? You know I always thought she had a soft spot for him. Perhaps we may hear the sound of wedding bells before too long!

RUPERT What?

DAME Now just a minute, I am her nurse and trusted *conflagrante* and if anything like that was going on, she would have told me.

QUEEN My dear Dame *Knowitall*, we *younger* girls do like to keep a few secrets from the older generation!

DAME Older generation?? If you're nearer her age than mine, I'll eat hay with a horse!

QUEEN *[Pointing off.]* The stable is that way!

DAME *[Outraged.]* Oh! *[Bigger.]* Oh!! *[To Andy. Normal.]* One more?

ANDY Why not!

DAME *[Very big.]* OH!!!! *[SHE exits followed by ANDY.]*

QUEEN Come along now, time for chit-chat later. Supper will be getting cold. *[SHE indicates they should ALL exit. The RUPERT stays behind looking dejected.]* Cheer up Prince Rupert, if Snow White has a fickle heart better you should find out now before she breaks yours. Besides, the girl of your dreams may be just around the corner. I shall be waiting for you; you'll be sitting next to me at supper. *[SHE exits smiling to herself.]*

RUPERT I can't believe it. Snow White is the most beautiful girl I've ever met. There can be no one else for me.

SONG - RUPERT

[At the end of the song the lights fade and the scene changes to.....]

SCENE 5 THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

[A front cloth scene. The small ANIMALS of the forest are playing and dancing around. In the distance we hear the DWARFS singing. The ANIMALS run off as the DWARFS enter singing. They are led by CHIEF followed by SMILIE, SNOOZY, SNIFFLES, TIMID and GROWLER. DOZY is missing.]

SONG – THE DWARFS

[THEY end the first part of their song and CHIEF turns to speak.]

- CHIEF Are we all here? Where's Dozy? *[They ALL call "Dozy". HE enters.]*
Where have you been?
- DOZY I couldn't remember whether I'd taken the kettle off the fire, so I ran
back to check.
- GROWLER Oh Dozy, you're always leaving it on.
- SMILIE One of these days it will boil dry!
- DOZY Well, it's all right, I had taken it off. But now I can't remember whether I
locked the cottage door!
- SNOOZY Dozy!
- DOZY I'd just run back and check.
- SNIFFLES No!
- DOZY But someone might break in.
- TIMID Oooh! The thought of that frightens me!
- CHIEF There's no time. We must get to work or the day will be nearly over!
- GROWLER I'm sure our cottage will be perfectly safe.
- CHIEF Right men. Roll call!
- [THEY line up. DOZY is always late and gets pushed into his position
in the line.]*
- OTHERS Dozy! You're in the wrong place. Don't you know where you're going?
Get into line. Always late! Etc.
- [DOZY gets to his place. Each one now steps forward and gives his
name in a manner suited to his character.]*
- CHIEF Chief.
- SMILIE Smilie.
- DOZY *[Who is facing the wrong way and quickly turns around.]* Dozy.
SNOOZY *[Yawning.]* Snoozy.

SNIFFLES *[Sneezing.]* Sniffles.

TIMID T-T-Timid.

GROWLER *[Gruffly.]* Growler.

CHIEF All present and correct. Now let's get to work.

SONG (CONTINUED) . DWARFS

[THEY continue with the song as they march off. The music changes and becomes more dramatic. SNOW WHITE enters very agitated. The HUNTSMAN follows her - still in a trance.]

S/WHITE This can't be right. Where are we? Where is Prince Rupert? You said he wanted to see me, but we are going further away from the palace and there's no sign of him.

HUNTSMAN We must go further.

S/WHITE But this leads into the forest.

HUNTSMAN Yes. Deep into the forest.

S/WHITE We must go back. The party will be starting and everyone will be wondering where we are.

HUNTSMAN We have to go deep into the forest so no one will find us!

S/WHITE What is the matter with you? Why are you behaving so oddly?

HUNTSMAN I must carry out the Queen's orders.

S/WHITE What do you mean, "carry out the Queen's orders"?

HUNTSMAN I must obey her.

S/WHITE Please let's go back now. This place frightens me. You are frightening me.

[SHE runs to one side of the stage. The HUNTSMAN takes out his knife.]

HUNTSMAN I must kill you and take back your heart!

S/WHITE *[Terrified.]* What? *[SHE turns and sees the knife.]* What are you doing? Please no. Why do you want to hurt me?

HUNTSMAN I.....I..... *[HE raises his knife. SNOW WHITE screams and runs as HE lunges forward towards her. HE trips and falls, then groans and sits up holding his head. HE is now out of his trance.]* What's happening? What are we doing here?

S/WHITE Please - I beg you, don't hurt me.

HUNTSMAN Hurt you? Why should I want to hurt you Princess Snow White? We have always been good friends.

S/WHITE But the knife. You said you wanted to kill me.

HUNTSMAN *[Standing, looking at the knife.]* I remember now. It was the Queen. She must have bewitched me somehow. "Take Snow White into the forest and kill her", she said. "Bring back her heart in this silver box". *[HE shows her the box.]*

S/WHITE Does she really hate me that much?

HUNTSMAN How could I have been tricked so easily?

S/WHITE The Queen has powers very few know about.

HUNTSMAN Oh please forgive me Princess. You know I would never hurt you.

S/WHITE I know that. But what will happen when you get back to the palace and she finds the box empty?

HUNTSMAN Don't worry. I will tell her that I have carried out her orders and substitute the heart of the wild boar I caught this morning. No one will ever know the truth. But you are in great danger. You must run away from here.

S/WHITE I will - and you must return to the castle. Thank you, dear Huntsman for saving me.

HUNTSMAN *[Kneeling before her.]* It is I who should thank you and ask your forgiveness for the terrible deed I was about to do.

S/WHITE I give it gladly. Now quickly, back to the palace.

HUNTSMAN Goodbye Princess - and may good luck be with you. *[HE exits.]*

S/WHITE Oh, now what am I to do? Alone in this forest with nowhere to go. If only Rupert were here. But I'll never see him again. I'll never see any of my friends again.

SONG . SNOW WHITE

[At the end of the song SHE begins to cry quietly to herself. The lights have closed in around her and the wind begins to blow. The front cloth rises and we are in.....

SCENE 6 DEEP IN THE FOREST

[This scene is made up three parts. Halfway up stage is a gauze depicting trees deep in the forest. Behind that is the outside of the Dwarfs cottage and behind that is the interior.]

BALLET

[The wind is still blowing and there is thunder and lightning. SNOW WHITE runs about scared by the branches of the trees. WILD ANIMALS appear around trees watching SNOW WHITE. THEY come out and chase her, taunting her all the time. Two large trees (possibly with people inside) move menacingly towards her. The WILD ANIMALS dart about as the music, thunder and lightning grow to a climax. SHE screams and faints centre stage. The lights blackout except for a spot on SNOW WHITE and the music grows calmer. As the lights return, ANIMALS of the forest including rabbits, mice, badgers, birds and an OWL slowly enter and dance around her. The BALLET ends with them all watching over SNOW WHITE. SHE stirs and sits up with a gasp. The ANIMALS start to run away.]

S/WHITE Oh no - please - don't run away. I'm all alone in this forest. Won't you please stay and be my friends? *[The ANIMALS slowly return.]* I've nowhere to live and I'm feeling very tired and hungry. *[The ANIMALS move to one side of the stage and go into a huddle. THEY then return to SNOW WHITE and begin to lead her around the stage.]*

TRANSFORMATION MUSIC

[The lights now bleed through the gauze and we see the outside of the Dwarfs cottage.] Oh what a dear little cottage.

[The gauze flies away.]

I wonder who lives there. *[SHE goes to the door and knocks.]* Nobody seems to be at home. Do you think it would be all right to wait inside?

[The ANIMALS nod and indicate she should go in. SHE opens the door and goes inside. The scenery either splits or flies to show the interior of the cottage.]

SCENE 7 INSIDE THE DWARFS COTTAGE

[To one side is a large table set for seven with seven stools around it. Up stage is the sleeping area with as many beds as possible. The place is not very tidy.]

S/WHITE Seven plates, seven cups and seven saucers. I wonder who lives here? *[One of the ANIMALS indicates a saucepan of porridge.]* Porridge! Left over from breakfast no doubt! Still, I am hungry. Do you think they'd mind if I had some? *[The ANIMALS shake their heads. SHE eats.]* That's better. *[SHE moves towards the beds.]* Oh look. Seven little beds. I do feel sleepy. Do you think whoever lives here would mind if I just lay down for a while? *[Again the ANIMALS shake their heads and indicate she should lie down.]* Well, just for a few minutes. *[And yawning, SHE lies on the beds and falls asleep.]*

OWL You are safe now Snow White, so sleep peacefully and while you sleep, dream of all the happy times back at the palace and of the people there who love you very much.

[The ANIMALS start to leave as the music for SNOW WHITE'S DREAM starts.]

SNOW WHITE'S DREAM

[The lights change and the CHORUS whirl across the stage in their Act 1 Scene 1 costumes. They are happily dancing and then the LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters and in mime announces PRINCE RUPERT. HE enters and the CHORUS bow. QUEEN MALEVOLENT now enters and crosses to him. THEY start to dance but HE sees someone off stage and crosses to the exit. The QUEEN follows as the CHORUS continues dancing. The DAME and ANDY enter in outrageous costumes and do a comic dance ending in chaos. The CHORUS laughs and applauds as the dream begins to fade and the lights return to the cottage. The ANIMALS enter with a coverlet of leaves and flowers. THEY carry it to SNOW WHITE and put it over her. They ALL gather round her as the music swells and the curtain falls.]

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO **SCENE 1 THE BALLROOM**

OPENING NUMBER

[The party is still in progress. PRINCE RUPERT is standing to one side rather dejected. The QUEEN tries to get him to dance with her, which he does reluctantly. The DAME and ANDY are also dancing. At the end of the number, RUPERT moves away.]

- QUEEN Well Prince Rupert, are you enjoying yourself?
- RUPERT Your majesty has gone to a lot of trouble to make me feel welcome. I wish I felt in happier spirits, but I can't understand why the Princess Snow White has failed to attend. She was so looking forward to tonight. I hope I have done nothing to make her stay away.
- QUEEN Oh the Princess is a moody person; who knows what has upset her. But don't let thoughts of her ruin your enjoyment of tonight. Come, let us have another dance.
- RUPERT If your majesty would excuse me, I think I would like to take some air.
- QUEEN Oh very well. *[SHE turns to one of the MALE CHORUS.]* Sir Nicholas, would you care to take a turn on the floor?
- SIR NICHOLAS I would be honoured your majesty.
- QUEEN I feel a tango coming on!

TANGO MUSIC

[Music starts as the QUEEN grabs SIR NICHOLAS and "tangos" him off stage. ALL dance off leaving RUPERT, ANDY and the DAME.]

- ANDY Now's our chance. Let's have a word with the Prince.
- DAME Good idea. *[Calling loudly.]* Yoo hoo! Princy!
- ANDY Not like that! *[HE crosses to RUPERT.]* Your Royal Highness, may we trouble you for a moment?
- DAME I'd like to trouble him for more than a moment!
- ANDY *[Hissing at her.]* Be quiet!
- RUPERT I'm afraid I wouldn't be very good company.
- DAME You're missing Snow White, aren't you dear?
- RUPERT I can't understand it. I was sure she wanted to be with me this evening.
- DAME I know she did. It was all she talked about. She was so excited.
- ANDY That is what's so odd about her going off with the Huntsman. She's never fancied him. It's you she fancies. I know 'cos I hoped she'd

fancy me, but she doesn't fancy me, she fancies you. If she did fancy me then she wouldn't fancy you, but she does, so fancy that!

RUPERT What are you saying?

ANDY I'm not quite sure!

DAME I wouldn't be surprised if the Queen was behind all of this.

RUPERT The Queen?

DAME Yes. She hates Snow White and always has. If she thought that you two were becoming . . . you know . . . *[SHE nudges him and makes kissing motion with her lips. HE looks at her questioningly.]* . . . close friends, she'd do anything she could to put a stop to it!

RUPERT But o o o

ANDY I think we should find the Huntsman and ask him a few questions.

DAME Yes, let's go and *integrate* him and see if anything should be taken down!

RUPERT Come along then. There's no time to lose.

DAME *[Grabbing ANDY in a tango hold.]* Walk this way!

[The music comes up as they tango off followed by RUPERT. The QUEEN and SIR NICHOLAS tango back on and finish in a flamboyant pose.]

QUEEN Thank you Sir Nicholas, you are a superb dancer.

SIR NICHOLAS Your majesty is too kind! As a token of my esteem, may I give you one of these roses? *[HE goes to pick a rose. Audience shouts. ANDY enters.]*

ANDY Nicky, Nicky don't picky the rosy! *[SIR NICHOLAS exits in a huff. ANDY turn to the audience.]* Thank you very much. *[HE exits. The QUEEN looks around to make sure SHE is alone and calls.]*

QUEEN Lord Chamberlain. *[LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters.]*

LORD CH. Your Majesty?

QUEEN Has the Huntsman returned?

LORD CH. I believe he has just arrived at the main gate, your Majesty.

QUEEN Send him to me at once.

LORD CH. Yes, your Majesty. *[HE exits. The DAME creeps on up stage and crosses to where the mirror will appear.]*

QUEEN He must have completed his task. My magic mirror will tell me all! *[SHE makes a pass and the mirror appears. The DAME hides behind*

it.] Oh dear, it looks a little dusty. I'd give it a clean so as to better observe the image. [SHE reaches off stage and gets a can of spray polish and a duster. There now follows the 'mirror gag' where the QUEEN cleans the mirror with the DAME copying the movement as a mirror image. Whenever the QUEEN looks away the DAME pulls faces. The last thing to happen is the DAME sneezes.] Bless you. [SHE does a double take then continues.] That's better. Now . Mirror mirror ò ò ò [Before she can continue the HUNTSMAN enters and bows.]

HUNTSMAN You wish to see me, your Majesty?

QUEEN *[Spinning round and moving away from the mirror.]* Yes indeed. Have you carried out my orders?

[The DAME pokes her head around the mirror trying to hear what they are saying.]

HUNTSMAN I took the Princess into the forest as you ordered and ò ò ò

QUEEN *[Wild with excitement.]* ò ò ò and she is no more! You have the proof?

HUNTSMAN *[Taking out the silver box.]* I have what you want in here, your Majesty.

QUEEN *[Taking the box and opening it.]* Ah, splendid, splendid! There will be a handsome reward for you. Now go and partake of the food and wine in the dining hall, for you have earned it. *[HE bows and exits. SHE crosses back to the mirror.]* At last Snow White is dead and I am once again the fairest in the land. *[SHE makes a pass and the mirror disappears revealing the DAME who strikes a statue like pose. The QUEEN crosses to the exit, then turns back to look at the DAME.]* What an ugly statue. I can't think what it is doing here. I'd have it broken up first thing tomorrow morning! *[SHE exits. The DAME makes another face at her as the HUNTSMAN enters on his way to the dining hall.]*

DAME Not so fast you. There are a few questions that need answering. *[SHE calls.]* Andy, Princy, he's here.

[ANDY and PRINCE RUPERT enter. The HUNTSMAN is trapped between them and the DAME.]

HUNTSMAN What do you want of me?

RUPERT My good man, you were seen earlier today heading towards the forest with the Princess Snow White. She has not been seen since, so what can you tell us about that?

HUNTSMAN I've no idea what you are talking about.

DAME *[Backing him into ANDY and RUPERT.]* Oh yes you do. I saw you just now talking to Queen *Irrelevant!* What have you been plotting?

HUNTSMAN Nothing. I know of no plot.

RUPERT If you have done anything to harm Snow White ò ò

HUNTSMAN I haven't, I swear.

RUPERT Where is she then? I warn you that if anything has happened to her you will be held solely responsible.

HUNTSMAN *[Now in a panic.]* It wasn't my idea. It was the Queen.

DAME I knew it!

HUNTSMAN She tricked me and put me into some kind of a trance. She said I was to take the Princess into the forest where no one would find her and kill her! *[ALL gasp.]* Then I was to cut out her heart and bring it back here.

DAME Oh no! My lamb, my pet. He's killed her! *[SHE dramatically staggers around the stage and begins to take out what will be an enormous handkerchief.]* Taken from us so young!

HUNTSMAN But you don't understand. She's not dead.

ANDY / RUPERT WHAT?

DAME *[Not hearing.]* All those years of nursing her when she was poorly.

HUNTSMAN She's not dead.

DAME Helping her with her homework ò ò ò

ANDY She's not dead!

DAME Picking out her first party frock ò ò ò

RUPERT She's not dead!

DAME *[Getting hysterical.]* Bathing a wound when she climbed a tree and scraped her knee ò ò ò

THE OTHERS *[Shouting.]* She's not dead!

DAME *[Suddenly normal.]* Well where is she then?

HUNTSMAN When I realised the Queen's plan, I told her to run and hide in the forest and never return to the castle for fear of her life.

RUPERT Alone in the forest? But there are wild animals. Anything could have happened to her!

DAME *[Off again.]* Oh no, she could be eaten alive! Oh my poor lamb. All those years of nursing her when she was poorly ò ò ò

ANDY Oh put a sock in it!

RUPERT We must mount a rescue. Can the rest of the court be trusted?

ANDY Oh yes, they all love Snow White.

RUPERT *[Calling.]* My friends come quickly . I need your help. *[The CHORUS enters. The LORD CHAMBERLAIN is with them.]* The Princess Snow White is lost somewhere in the forest. We are going to mount a rescue search, but the Queen must know nothing about it. Are you with us?

ALL Yes.

LORD CH. I don't know about this, I say I don't know about this. It's against protocol to keep things from the Queen. Besides she has such a terrible temper. She could order all our heads to be cut off! Oh it's too much, I say it's too much!

ANDY Now look here Lord Chamber of Horrors ò ò ò ò

LORD CH. Chamberlain!

ANDY ò ò ò whatever! You've always liked Snow White, haven't you?

LORD CH. But of course.

ANDY And you would never wish her any harm?

LORD CH. Of course not.

ANDY And if someone wanted to get rid of her because they were jealous of her, you'd stand up to them, wouldn't you?

LORD CH. I certainly would, I say I certainly would.

ANDY Well that's what the Queen is trying to do!

LORD CH. You mean she ò ò ò

RUPERT Yes.

LORD CH. To pretty little Snow White?

DAME Yes!

LORD CH. Why that wicked old Queen! I say old Queen!

ANDY Does that mean you're with us Lord Ch . *[The LORD CHAMBERLAIN shoots him a look.]* Chamberlain?

LORD CH. I'm with you!

[ALL cheer.]

RUPERT Then let us prepare ourselves. Don't worry Snow White, your friends will soon find you and make sure no harm ever comes to you.

SONG . RUPERT AND COMPANY

*[At the end of the song the lights fade and the scene changes to
.....]*

NB. If more time is required to change the main scene to the Dwarfs cottage, the corridor cloth can fly in during RUPERT's song.

SCENE 2 THE DIAMOND MINE

[The scene is a front cloth. In the dark we hear the DWARFS singing. The lights come up to reveal the SEVEN DWARFS working away.]

WORK SONG . THE DWARFS

[THEY sing their song through and then the sound of a clock tower bell is heard chiming five. The DWARFS stop work and CHIEF crosses to one side.]

CHIEF Right men. Are we all here? Roll call!

[THEY line up. DOZY is always late and gets pushed into his position in the line.]

OTHERS Dozy! You're in the wrong place. Don't you know where you're going? Get into line. Always late! Etc.

[DOZY gets to his place. Each one now steps forward and gives his name in a manner suited to his character.]

CHIEF Chief.

SMILIE Smilie.

DOZY *[Who is facing the wrong way and quickly turns around.]* Dozy.

SNOOZY *[Yawning.]* Snoozy.

SNIFFLES *[Sneezing.]* Sniffles.

TIMID T-T-Timid.

GROWLER *[Gruffly.]* Growler.

CHIEF All present and correct. Well that was a good days work men. Now it's time for home.

WORK SONG (Continued.)

[The DWARFS continue the song and as they sing they pick up all their tools and sacks etc. and march across the stage. The lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 3 THE DWARFS CATTAGE

[The scene is as before. SNOW WHITE is still asleep on the beds. The DWARFS march into their cottage and put their tools etc. down. The song finishes with them in a line across the front of the stage.]

- CHIEF Now for some food. Any porridge left over from this morning?
- SMILIE Yes, I made enough for two helping each!
- [THEY all move to the table and sit.]*
- GROWLER *[Standing with his arms folded.]* Porridge? Again! We have porridge for breakfast, porridge for dinner. I'm beginning to dream about porridge! Oh what I wouldn't give for a nice piece of bacon and two fried eggs!
[HE sits down.]
- SNIFFLES Or a great big juicy steak.
- TIMID And apple pie. I do love apple pie.
- DOZY *[Picking up the pan with the porridge in.]* There doesn't seem to be much left.
- CHIEF What?
- GROWLER Someone's been eating our food.
- SNOOZY I'm too tired to eat!
- TIMID Well, it . . . it wasn't me.
- CHIEF I can't have been any of us. We've been together all day at the mine.
- SNIFFLES *[Finding the bowl SNOW WHITE used.]* Look, someone has been sitting here eating.
- SMILIE Things on this table have been moved!
- DOZY It might be a ghost! *[THEY all start to tremble and look around.]*
- TIMID I d-d-d-don't like ghosts.
- DOZY Do you think our cottage is haunted?
- CHIEF Don't be dozy, Dozy! Whoever heard of a ghost eating porridge? *[At this point SNOW WHITE stirs and yawns but doesn't wake. The DWARFS hear this and huddle together in the centre of the stage.]*

SNOOZY W-what was that?

GROWLER It came from back there.

SNIFFLES Someone must go and look.

TIMID N-n-not me!

CHIEF Weꝓ all go. Whoꝓ going to lead?

SMILIE Well youꝓ Chief. You ought to!

CHIEF Er õ õ right ho then. Follow me. *[THEY form a line – CHIEF leads and TIMID brings up the rear. THEY start to creep towards the beds. SNIFFLES sneezes.]*

ALL Shhhh!!! *[THEY continue towards the beds and then CHIEF spots SNOW WHITE.]*

CHIEF Look! *[They others bump into each other and TIMID falls over.]* Itꝓ a young girl.

GROWLER Are you sure? It could be a monster!

TIMID *[Getting up.]* A monster?

GROWLER Or a wicked witch!

TIMID Ooooooooooh! *[HE runs and hides.]*

DOZY Sheꝓ a very beautiful wicked witch.

SNOOZY She looks so peaceful lying there. It makes me feel very tired.

SNIFFLES Who do you suppose she is?

SMILIE And where did she come from?

S/WHITE *[Waking up and stretching.]* Hello! *[This scares the DWARFS and they run and hide as best they can.]* Oh please donꝓ run away. *[SHE crosses down stage.]* Iꝓn sorry if I startled you. Donꝓ be afraid of me. I mean you no harm.

CHIEF What are you doing here?

S/WHITE I was lost in the forest and very tired and hungry. When I saw your cottage I took shelter and fell asleep.

DOZY You ate all our porridge as well!

CHIEF Be quiet Dozy!

S/WHITE Iꝓn so sorry, but I was hungry. Iꝓ cook you a meal if you would like me to.

[THEY all start to gather round her.]

- SNIFFLES You can cook??
- S/WHITE Yes.
- GROWLER What sort of meal could you cook?
- S/WHITE How would you like a meat and potato pie with carrots and parsnips and thick, thick gravy?
- DOZY Oh, I'm feeling faint just thinking about it!
- TIMID Would there be apple pie as well? It's been so long since I had apple pie.
- S/WHITE Then you shall have apple pie with lots and lots of cream!
- TIMID Ooooooooooh!! *[HE and DOZY almost pass out with delight.]*
- CHIEF Just a minute. We don't know who you are.
- S/WHITE My name is Snow White.
- CHIEF Snow White? Not the Princess Snow White?
- S/WHITE Yes.
- SNIFFLES You live at the castle with that awful Queen Malevolent?
- S/WHITE I used to, but she hates me so much that I had to run away.
- SMILIE Hate you? How could anyone hate you?
- CHIEF Queen Malevolent is someone to be feared. She practices magic of the most sinister kind.
- GROWLER Many years ago, after the King died, she threatened to turn us all to stone unless we told her where our precious diamond mines were.
- DOZY The King used the diamonds for the benefit of all the land, but the Queen just wanted them for herself.
- CHIEF One night we all ran away from court and set up house here.
- SNOOZY And since then no one has ever found us.
- S/WHITE Until I stumbled across your doorstep and fell asleep on your beds!
[ALL laugh.] Now you know who I am, but what are your names?
- [They ALL line up as before.]*
- CHIEF Chief.
- SMILIE Smilie.

DOZY *[Who is facing the wrong way and quickly turns around.]* Dozy.

SNOOZY *[Yawning.]* Snoozy.

SNIFFLES *[Sneezing.]* Sniffles.

TIMID T-T-Timid.

GROWLER *[Gruffly.]* Growler.

S/WHITE Well, I'm very pleased to meet you. Now, how about I cook you that meal?

CHIEF You could cook all our meals for us if you like.

GROWLER How's that?

CHIEF Well Snow White needs somewhere to stay and let's be honest, we need someone to look after us! What do you say lads? *[ALL gather together in conference. We hear all of them saying "Yes".]* That's settled then. Snow White, how would you like to stay here with us?

TIMID *[Going to her.]* Oh say yes+ P-Please say yes!

S/WHITE You're all so kind. *[SHE starts to cry.]* I don't know what to say.

SMILIE Don't cry.

SNIFFLES Here borrow my hanky! *[HE takes out a large hanky, sneezes into it and offers it to SNOW WHITE.]*

CHIEF From now on you've got nothing to worry about. We'll make sure no harm ever comes to you.

SONG . SNOW WHITE AND DWARFS

[At the end of the song the lights fade and the scene changes to]

SCENE 4 THE QUEENS LABORATORY

[The scene is as Act 1 Scene 1. The QUEEN is look at the silver box.]

QUEEN Snow White's heart! At last she is no more and no longer a threat. I've always been the fairest, the most beautiful in the land and that is the way it will stay . forever and ever. *[SHE roars with laughter.]* But I must hear it for myself. I want my magic mirror to tell me again and again that I am the fairest. *[SHE makes a magic pass and the mirror appears.]*
 Mirror, mirror on the wall
 Who is the fairest of us all?

[The SPIRIT appears in the mirror.]

- SPIRIT Thou wert the fairest lady Queen;
Snow White is fairest now I ween.
- QUEEN *[In a rage.]* What? Snow White? Snow White? But how can that be?
She is dead. I have here her heart.
- SPIRIT That heart in silver box so bright
Is not the heart of fair Snow White.
- QUEEN Not hers? Then whose?
- SPIRIT A wild boars' from the Huntsman's knife
So that Snow White could keep her life.
- QUEEN Tricked by my own Huntsman! Then come first light of dawn his life he
will forfeit. But if Snow White is not dead where is she now? Tell me
mirror and quickly . where is Snow White.
- SPIRIT Amid the forest darkly green,
She lives with Dwarfs . the hills between.
- QUEEN Dwarfs? The Dwarfs that used to live here and mine diamonds? I
thought they had perished long ago.
- SPIRIT They are all alive and safe and well
And in a cottage happily dwell.
- QUEEN And Snow White is with them?
- SPIRIT She is and there intends to stay
Growing more beautiful by the day!
- QUEEN Enough! I have heard enough. *[SHE makes a pass and the SPIRIT
and mirror disappear.]* Now I shall contrive something to destroy her
completely. This time I will do it myself. Only then can I be sure she is
finally dead! *[SHE picks up a large book of spells and turns the
pages.]* Ah, the very thing. The *Sleeping Death* a poison so potent
that the victim can only be woken within one hour by a lovers kiss.

MUSIC FOR INCANTATION

*[SHE crosses to the table. From the bottles and items on it SHE starts
to prepare a poison.]*

Eye of dog and wing of bat,
Tongue of newt and claw of cat.
Hair of skunk and slime of snail,
Vipers tooth and rabbits' tail.
Ravens spit and blood of shrew;
Mix into a poisonous brew.
[SHE stirs the mixture, then picks up a large apple.]

A large red juicy apple. Snow White's favourite fruit. I will soak one half in the poison. *[SHE does so and holds it up.]* There, she'll not be able to resist such a lovely apple. *[SHE puts it in a basket with some others.]* Now for the final part of my plan. I must take on a disguise so that Snow White will not know who I am. I will transform myself from the most beautiful woman in the land to the ugliest. *[From now to the end of the scene the lights slowly dim down.]*

Come wind and rain, come fire and ice,
Come hail and snow and in a trice
Transform this beauty all serene
Into the most hideous ever seen.

[Thunder and lightning as the lights blackout and a double dressed as an OLD CRONE take the place of the QUEEN. The lights return very dimly.]

VOICE OVER Perfect, perfect! Snow White will never recognise me and I shall finally be able to rid myself of her forever!

[A loud cackling laugh is heard. More thunder cracks as the lights fade and the scene changes to

SCENE 5 THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

[Same as Act 1 Scene 5. This time a log, capable of seating three, is on one side of the stage. ANDY enters followed by the DAME who carries a small picnic basket.]

- DAME Andy, no so fast. All this scrambling through trees and clambering over rocks is doing nothing for my complexion! *[SHE holds up her hands.]* Look I shall have hands like a mans!
- ANDY But we've got to rescue Snow White. Who knows what the Queen will do when she finds out she's still alive.
- DAME Where's Prince Rupert?
- ANDY I thought you were following him.
- DAME I thought you were!
- ANDY Oh no, don't say we've gone and lost him. I've no idea where we are. I've never been in this part of the forest before! And where's the Lord Chamberlain?
- DAME I thought you were following him.
- ANDY I thought you were!
- DAME Oh no, don't say we've gone and lost him. I've no idea where we are
ō ō oh we've done that!

ANDY Now what are we going to do?

DAME *[Crossing to sit in the middle of the log.]* Well I for one am going to take the weight off my feet and have something to eat. I'm starving. *[SHE shows him the basket.]* Look, I managed to grab some left overs from last night's banquet.

ANDY All you've got are bananas!

DAME Well I like bananas. Besides, they're good for you. Help you to keep up your strength while we're searching for Snow White. *[ANDY crosses and sits on one end of the log. The DAME gets out two bananas and hands one to ANDY.]* There you are . . . a nice big banana for you . . . *[At the word 'banana' a MONKEY pops its head out from the wings.]* and one for me. *[The MONKEY crosses to the log and sits on the other end next to the DAME. ANDY peels his banana and starts to eat. The DAME peels hers but continues talking. The MONKEY breaks off a piece of her banana and eats it.]* You know I'm sure Snow White will be all right. She's a sensible girl and used to looking after herself. Yes, I'm sure she'll be all o o o *[SHE sees some of her banana is missing and looks at ANDY who is happily eating away.]* Are you enjoying that?

ANDY Yes thank you. I might even have another one!

DAME Really? Anyway as I was saying, I'm sure she'll be all right. *[During the next part the MONKEY eats the rest of her banana.]* I mean she's had a very good teacher in me! I've taught her everything she knows. Given her the benefit of all my worldly experience o o o *[SHE goes to eat and finds only the skin left.]* I think there's some monkey business going on here! *[SHE gets another banana out of the basket and peels it. The MONKEY claps his hands with glee. The DAME looks suspiciously at ANDY and holds the banana in front of the MONKEY. Then SHE looks front. The MONKEY puts his arm around her shoulders. SHE thinks it is ANDY and smiles to herself.]* Oh. I didn't know you cared!

ANDY Pardon? *[The MONKEY now eats her banana.]*

DAME You have been a dark horse! You never gave me the slightest inkling of how you felt.

ANDY What?

DAME If you wanted a nibble you only had to ask! *[SHE squeezes his knee. HE begins to tremble.]* How do you fancy a bit more?

ANDY Gerroff!! *[By now the MONKEY has eaten the rest of HER banana.]*

DAME You can have it all if you want it! *[SHE brings her hand with the banana skin in it to in front of ANDY. HE yelps and runs down stage. The MONKEY runs off.]*

ANDY What has got into you?

DAME *[Following him down stage.]* I thought you were getting a little amorous, nibbling at my banana!

ANDY I never nibbled you banana!

DAME Yes you did!

ANDY No I didn't!

DAME *[To the audience.]* He did, didn't he boys and girls? *[Audience shouts out.]* What? A monkey? Where? Over here? *[THEY cross to the opposite side of the stage to where the MONKEY ran off.]*

ANDY It's not here!

DAME What? Over this side? *[THEY cross to the opposite side. The MONKEY runs on up stage of them and crosses waving at the audience. As HE passes the basket he grabs the remaining bananas and runs off.]*

ANDY There's nothing over here either! *[THEY continue to walk around the stage getting instructions off the audience until they end up where the MONKEY went off. At this point the LORD CHAMBERLAIN enters from the same place and bumps into the DAME who bumps into ANDY who falls over. RUPERT also enters.]*

DAME That's not a monkey!

ANDY Oh I don't know!

DAME Anyway, where have you been?

LORD CH. Looking for you . I say . looking for you!

RUPERT I've been to the top of that hill and I think I saw a trail leading to the other side if the forest.

ANDY Do you think there's anything there?

RUPERT I'm sure I detected a wisp of smoke rising through the trees. Perhaps there is a house.

DAME Oooh, if there's a house there must be people!

ANDY And if there are people they might know where Snow White is.

LORD CH. Well what are we waiting for? Let's be on our way.

[THEY all start to exit as the QUEEN enters as an OLD CRONE. SHE carries the basket of apples. THEY all bump into each other and ANDY falls over again.]

DAME Oh my goodness, it's - *[Well known name.]*
 QUEEN *[In an OLD CRONES voice.]* Good day to you all.

OTHERS Good day old woman!

QUEEN And what might you be doing in these parts?

ANDY We're looking for the Princess Snow White.

QUEEN Princess Snow White? I don't think I know her. Does she live around here?

DAME Oh no, she lives with us at the castle, but she has run away and we want to find her and take her back home.

QUEEN What a silly girl to run away from a castle!

ANDY She was forced to by the evil Queen Malevolent. Oh she's a rotten, spiteful, twisted, bitter, bloodthirsty . *[The QUEEN –unseen by the others – makes as if to wring ANDY'S' neck.]* . horrible, nasty, vile, rotten, spiteful o o o

DAME You've said that!

ANDY And she's ugly as well!

QUEEN Ugly??

RUPERT Dear lady, have you seen a young girl running through the forest?

QUEEN Oh my good sir, these poor eyes of mine are not as sharp as they used to be.

LORD CH. But surely you would have noticed if a stranger had passed this way.

QUEEN I'm just a poor old woman selling a few apples to make a living.

RUPERT There seems to be a house or a village over that hill. We're going to try there.

QUEEN In that case why are you going this way?

RUPERT It seems the most direct.

QUEEN Oh no, you should take the short cut.

DAME Short cut?

QUEEN Yes. You'll get there in no time.

ANDY Which way is the short cut?

QUEEN *[Pointing the opposite way.]* Down that path until you reach the old oak.

OTHERS The old oak!

QUEEN Then take the left fork and go right round the rocky ridge.

ANDY Left at the old oak and to the rocky ridge . right.

QUEEN No . left!

ANDY That's what I said. Left . right!

DAME Then where do we go?

QUEEN When you get right round the rocky ridge you go down the twisted trail until you reach the battered bridge. But be careful not to cross the battered bridge because it might buckle and throw you into the craggy creek!

LORD CH. So where do we go?

QUEEN Be patient young man and I'll tell you. Take the low road passed the petrified pond.

OTHERS *[A little scared.]* Ooooooh!!

QUEEN On through the windy wood.

OTHERS *[More scared.]* Ooooooooooh!!

QUEEN Cross over the crossroads.

OTHERS *['Oooohing' the "Crossroads" theme. NB if the Crossroads theme is not remembered any more, just do a bigger 'Ooooh!']* Ooooooooooh!!

QUEEN Left at the great oak and you'll be at the village.

ANDY But I thought the great oak was the first thing we came to?

QUEEN That's the *old* oak. The great oak is just outside the village.

DAME I think we had better recap, don't you?

LORD CH. Most certainly.

ANDY I got lost at the battered creek!

RUPERT No, it's the battered bridge over the craggy creek.

DAME Which is after the rocky ridge . after the old oak!

LORD CH. Then what's left?

ANDY No, it's right . across the crossroads to the great oak and .

ALL - then we'll be at the village!

DAME And I'll be straight into the pub for a Guinness!

RUPERT Are you sure that is the short cut?

QUEEN Oh yes. If you go the other way you'll go up the high hill, right round the wishing well ò ò ò

DAME Don't bother! We'll take the short cut! Come along troops. Left round the rocky ridge ò ò

ANDY ò ò no it's right round the rocky ridge!

LORD CH. What about the old oak?

[THEY exit arguing. Someone shouts "Taxi!"]

QUEEN Ha ha! They will soon get lost in that forest and I'll be over that hill and at the Dwarfs cottage in no time. Then my *pretty* Snow White, one bite of this apple and it will be the end for you!

[SHE exits laughing as the lights fade and the scene changes to]

SCENE 6 THE DWARFS COTTAGE

[The cottage is now neat and tidy. All the tools are stacked to one side and by the door is a wash tub on a stool. The DWARFS are at the table just finishing their breakfast. SNOW WHITE stands to one side.]

CHIEF Snow White that was the best breakfast we've ever had.

S/WHITE Why thank you, Chief.

SNIFFLES The porridge was much better than you make Smilie.

DOZY Yes. If there was any left over, we used it to plaster over the cracks in the walls. *[ALL laugh.]*

GROWLER Bacon nice and crisp . and those mushrooms!

TIMID And look at our cottage. So neat and tidy. It really feels like home.

SNOOZY My bed was so comfortable; I could have slept for hours!

S/WHITE After you've all been so kind to me, it's the least I could do.

SMILIE I hope you stay with us forever and ever.

CHIEF Come along men. Time to start the days work. *[They ALL start to collect their tools etc.]*

TIMID *[Crossing to SNOW WHITE.]* You will be here when we get back, won't you Snow White?

S/WHITE Of course I will - with a meal ready and waiting for you.

TIMID With apple pie?

S/WHITE With apple pie!

SMILIE It's so good to have you as our friend.

SNIFFLES Did you have a lot of friends back at the castle?

S/WHITE Oh yes.

DOZY You must miss them a lot.

S/WHITE I do. There was someone in particular that I had just met ò ò *[HER voice trails off.]*

GROWLER Well just remember we're here now and we'll never let anything or anyone harm you.

CHIEF Right. We must be off. Let no one in the cottage and keep the door shut.

S/WHITE I will.

CHIEF Ready men?

ALL Ready! *[They ALL head towards the door.]*

S/WHITE Er, boys. Haven't you forgotten something?

ALL *[Ad. Lib.]* No. Don't think so. I've got my shovel etc.

S/WHITE What about washing your hands and faces?

ALL Oh dear. Almost forgot! *Etc.*

[ALL, except GROWLER, wash at the tub. HE hides somewhere. SNOW WHITE notices him.]

S/WHITE I think there's one missing.

ALL Growler! He's always the same. Come on you're not getting out of it!

[THEY find him and drag him to the tub.]

GROWLER Hey, let go of me! I had a wash last month! Let go of ò ò *[HE is dunked in the water and comes up spluttering. S/WHITE crosses to him and wipes his face.]*

S/WHITE There. All neat and clean.

GROWLER Take care of yourself.

S/WHITE I will. *[SHE kisses him on the cheek. HE manages a smile.]*
REPRISE . WORK SONG

[The DWARFS exit singing. SNOW WHITE waves them off and as SHE moves down to the table the music segues into -]

SONG . SNOW WHITE

[During the song SHE clears away the breakfast things. At the end of the song there is a knock at the door.]

- S/WHITE Who's there?
- QUEEN *[Off.]* Just a poor old apple seller, my dear.
- S/WHITE Apple seller?
- QUEEN Yes. I've been up since before dawn and my old bones are aching with so much walking. May I come in and sit down for a while?
- S/WHITE I'm afraid the owners of this cottage are not at home and have told me not to let anyone in.
- QUEEN Have those dear little Dwarfs gone off to work already?
- S/WHITE Do you know them?
- QUEEN Why yes, lord love you. They often buy apples from me.
- S/WHITE Well o o o o o
- QUEEN You have such a kind voice. I bet there's a pretty face to go with it. Won't you open the door and let me see you?
- S/WHITE I suppose if you are a friend of the Dwarfs it will be all right. *[SHE opens the door and the QUEEN enters.]*
- QUEEN I was right. You are a pretty girl. *[With a sneering aside.]* Too pretty!
- S/WHITE Won't you sit here? *[The QUEEN sits at one end of the table.]* Can I get you a drink of water?
- QUEEN No thank you my dear. Just sit down to rest this weary body is all I need. You've been very kind, let me give you something. How would you like a big red juicy apple?
- S/WHITE They do look lovely . and Timid did want apple pie for supper. Let me buy them all from you.
- QUEEN For your kindness I'll give them to you. But this one you must have for yourself. *[SHE lifts out the poison apple and holds it in front of SNOW WHITE.]*
- S/WHITE It does look appetising . but no thank you, I shouldn't.
- QUEEN Why ever not?
- S/WHITE My friends told me not to.

QUEEN But what harm can an apple do? Look, if you are worried I'll take a bite out of one side. *[SHE does and then holds the apple up to SNOW WHITE.]*

S/WHITE It does look good and I do love apples. All right. Thank you. *[SHE takes a bit out of the apple.]* Oh ò ò ò I feel ò ò I feel ò ò ò *[SHE drops the apple and falls to the floor. Thunder crashes as the QUEEN stands shrieking with laughter.]*

QUEEN At last, at last that wretched girl is dead. From now on I *will* be the fairest in the land! *[SHE exits, still laughing.]*

MUSIC

[Slow mournful music is heard and after a few moments some of the WOODLAND ANIMALS led by OWL enter. THEY see SNOW WHITE and circle around her.]

OWL Something terrible has happened to dear Snow White. Our friends the Dwarfs must be told at once. Quickly, run and fetch them while I stay here and watch over her.

[The OTHERS nod and run out of the door while OWL stays behind. HE crosses up to the beds and brings the coverlet of flowers used at the end of Act One and puts it over her. A moment later voices are heard off stage.]

CHIEF What's the matter?

GROWLER What's going on? *[The DWARFS enter pushed by the ANIMALS. THEY stop dead when they see SNOW WHITE.]*

SMILIE Snow White! *[THEY rush to her. The ANIMALS move up stage for the rest of the scene.]*

TIMID *[Kneeling down beside her.]* Oh no. She's dead!

SNIFFLES But what happened?

SNOOZY *[Finding the apple.]* She must have choked on this apple.

CHIEF *[Taking the apple and smelling it.]* It's been poisoned!

DOZY Who could have done such a thing?

GROWLER There's only one person. Queen Malevolent!

TIMID Oh dear, dear Snow White. Whatever are we going to do without you?

SMILIE She looks so peaceful. Almost as if she were asleep.

[They ALL stand tearfully around her. After a few moments we hear more voices.]

DAME *[Off.]* Hello! Anyone at home?

[The DWARFS stand in a group to hide SNOW WHITE as the DAME, RUPERT, ANDY and the LORD CHAMBERLAIN enter.]

CHIEF Who are you?

DAME We are friends of a beautiful young girl called Snow White.

ANDY You haven't seen her have you?

LORD CH. We've been looking for her everywhere. *[RUPERT notices the DWARFS are hiding something and sees SNOW WHITE.]*

RUPERT Snow White! *[ALL rush to her. The DWARFS break right and left of them.]*

DAME Oh no! My poor Snow White! *[RUPERT holds SNOW WHITE in his arms.]*

ANDY What's happened?

CHIEF She's been poisoned by this apple.

LORD CH. Poisoned? By an apple? That sounds like the work . I say, that sounds like the work of Queen Malevolent!

DAME Apple? The apple seller who sent us on a wild goose chase through the forest. That must have been her!

RUPERT Oh this cannot be. After only just meeting you to lose you in such a way. Oh Snow White, you'd never know how much I loved you. *[While cradling her in his arms he plants a kiss on her lips. HER head falls forward and she coughs and wakes.]*

S/WHITE Oh, what has happened?

RUPERT Snow White!

DAME Oh my precious girl. You're alive.

ALL *[Jumping for joy.]* She's alive! She's alive!

ANDY You must have dislodged the apple in her throat!

S/WHITE *[Seeing the apple.]* That apple ò I remember ò ò

CHIEF Who gave it to you?

S/WHITE Why an old woman. She said she knew you all.

LORD CH. The Queen. It must have been the Queen, I say it must have been the Queen in disguise!

GROWLER
DOZY She is capable of all kinds of black magic, as we know to our cost!
But how would she know where Snow White was?

CHIEF The mirror! The magic mirror would tell her!

ANDY Magic mirror?

CHIEF Yes. She possesses a magic mirror that is the key to all her sorcery. But she keeps it hidden. If you can find and break the mirror then the Queen will be destroyed.

RUPERT Then what are we waiting for? Let's get back to the castle.

SMILIE We'll come with you. We know a short cut!

DAME Not another shortcut!

SNIFFLES Oh dear, that will be through the meadow - and me with hay fever!

[HE sneezes. ALL laugh.]

REPRISE OF RUPERT'S SONG (ACT 2 SCENE 1)

[This is a short reprise at the end of which they ALL head for the door as the lights fade and the scene changes to]

SCENE 7 THE QUEEN'S LABORATORY

[The QUEEN is back as herself and holding a goblet of the magic beauty potion.]

QUEEN The fairest in the land. I *am* the fairest in the land! And with this potion I shall grow more beautiful by the day. *[SHE drinks.]* Oh I simply must ask the mirror one more time to tell me how ravishing I am! *[SHE makes a pass and the mirror appears.]*
Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is the fairest of us all?

[The SPIRIT appears.]

SPIRIT Oh mighty Queen you were fairest, that is true;
But Snow White lives and is fairer still than you!

QUEEN What? Snow White lives? You lie! She is dead. I killed her with the poisoned apple! *[PRINCE RUPERT enters.]*

RUPERT Condemned by your own words you treacherous creature.

QUEEN *[Spinning round to see him.]* You! How dare you enter my private quarters!

RUPERT I come to arrest you for attempting to kill the Princess Snow White.

QUEEN Who do you think you are talking to me like that? I am the all-powerful Queen Malevolent and I can destroy you with a wave of my hand.

RUPERT Really? We'll see about that.

QUEEN *[Crossing to the mirror.]* Spirit of the mirror, summon up all the powers of darkness so that I may dispose of this puny Prince and all who dare to stand in my way.

RUPERT You won't have any powers when I'm finished with you.

QUEEN What do you mean? *[RUPERT crosses to the table and picks up a large object.]* What are you doing with that?

RUPERT By smashing that mirror I'll put a stop to all your evil ways once and for all.

QUEEN Foolish mortal. Don't you realise I am invincible?

[SHE takes a silver dagger from the table and advances on RUPERT. HE struggles with her and forces her back towards the mirror. SHE pushes him and goes to stab him but he throws the object at the mirror. The lights black out and the thunder crashes out as we hear the mirror shattering. The QUEEN gives a piercing scream. As the lights return we see that the QUEEN has been trapped inside the mirror as it disappears. SNOW WHITE, DAME and LORD CHAMBERLAIN enter and see this happening.]

DAME Well done Princy dear!

LORD CH. Has she gone? I say, has she really gone?

RUPERT Yes. Never again will she be able to inflict her evil on anyone.

S/WHITE I can't believe it. How brave you were.

DAME Wasn't he though?

RUPERT And this means that as you are the heir to the throne, you are the rightful Queen!

DAME Don't you think the Queen should have a King? *[SHE gives him a dig in the ribs.]*

RUPERT *[Kneeling.]* Snow White, would you do me the honour of becoming my wife?

S/WHITE It is I who would be honoured. *[THEY embrace.]*

DAME Oh isn't it wonderful? I'll start the wedding dress right away. And a bouquet! You'll need a bouquet. How about one made of all these white roses? *[SHE goes towards the bush. Audience shouts. ANDY enters.]*

ANDY Here, what's going on with my roses?

DAME I was going to make them into a bouquet. Prince Rupert has asked Snow White to marry him.

ANDY Oh well, they were going to be a birthday present, so I suppose now they have to be a wedding present.

S/WHITE Thank you Andy. *[SHE kisses him on the cheek and he swoons into the arms of the Dame.]*

DAME Of course we could make it a double wedding!!

ANDY *[Leaping up.]* What??

DAME I thought that would bring you round!

LORD CH. I think we ought to go and announce the happy news to the court.

S/WHITE Oh yes. I want all my friends to celebrate with me.

LORD CH. If you would care to follow me, I will officially announce you.

ANDY Yes, you do that Lord Ch ò ò

LORD CH. *[Shooting him a look.]* Yes?

ANDY Here, what is your first name.

LORD CH. Do you know it's been so long since I used it I can't remember!

ANDY Well is it A - Neville?

LORD CH. Neville Chamberlain?

ANDY Or B -Richard?

LORD CH. Richard Chamberlain?

ANDY C . Eric or D . Fred!!

LORD CH. I don't know. Maybe I should take 50/50!

ANDY Would you like to ask the audience?

LORD CH. No. I think I'd go and phone a friend!

[HE exits, followed by SNOW WHITE and the RUPERT. ANDY and the DAME cross down stage as the front cloth flies in and we are in

SCENE 8 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

DAME Well hasn't everything worked out just fine? The Queen is dead, the Dwarfs no longer have to stay in hiding and my precious Snow White has got her Prince back from Boots!!

ANDY And I've got no one!

DAME Oh but Andy you have. We could make beautiful music together!

ANDY Yes, I can see it now. It would be like being married to an old bass fiddle!

DAME Oooh! Anyway, talking of music, you know what we've got to do now, don't you?

ANDY I can't begin to think!

DAME It's time to throw back your head and revitalise your vocal chords!

ANDY What??

DAME I've written a little song to sing at Snow White's wedding and I want you to help me.

SONG SHEET

[THEY ad. Lib into song sheet. Lights fade at the end.]

SCENE 9 THE BALLROOM

[The CHORUS and DANCERS are on performing a dance. At the end THEY start the Finale.]

FINALE

[The COMPANY takes their calls in the following order.]

CHORUS AND DANCERS

ANIMALS

SPIRIT OF THE MIRROR

HUNTSMAN

LORD CHAMBERLAIN

QUEEN MALEVOLENT

THE SEVEN DWARFS

ANDY

DAME DOITALL

ANDY Three cheers for King Rupert and Queen Snow White.

[ALL cheer as

RUPERT AND SNOW WHITE

ō ō ō ō ō take their call.]

SPIRIT And so our tale has ended,

HUNTSMAN The Prince has wed Snow White.

QUEEN My schemes have been defeated

RUPERT And goodness wins the fight.

LORD CH. We hope you have enjoyed yourselves. I say, *[They ALL join in.]* we hope have enjoyed yourselves!

ANDY And had a lot of fun.

DAME We wish you all the best of luck

ALL For the year that's yet to come!

FINAL CHORUS

[ALL wave to the audience as the curtain falls.]