

S N O W W H I T E

Characters:

QUEEN	MOTHER TO SNOW WHITE
QUEEN	STEP-MOTHER TO SNOW WHITE
HUNTER	
SNOW WHITE	
HAPPY	DWARF
DOC	DWARF
SNEEZY	DWARF
DOPEY	DWARF
BASHFUL	DWARF
SLEEPY	DWARF
GRUMPY	DWARF
PEDLAR'S WIFE	QUEEN IN DISGUISE
OLD LADY	QUEEN IN DISGUISE
FARMER'S WIFE	QUEEN IN DISGUISE
PRINCE CHARMING	
MIRROR	

IN HONOUR OF

FATHER J. BORG. S.D.B. .

MARCH 49-74.

ELIZABETH FENECH.

Once upon a time there had been a very cold Winter. The snowflakes fell thickly from heaven. A queen sat at her window, sewing. As she looked at the snow, she pricked her finger and three drops of blood trickled down. Seeing the beautiful red colour of the blood in the white snow, the queen was fascinated. She said to herself:

QUEEN If only I could have a child as white as snow, as red as blood and as black as ebony.

Soon afterwards she had a little daughter who was as white as snow, as red as blood and as black as ebony, so she called the child "Snow White". But soon after Snow White was born the queen died.

One year later, the king married again. But this wife was proud and arrogant. She possessed a beautiful mirror.

Whenever she stood in front of the mirror, she asked it:

QUEEN Mirror mirror, hanging there, Who in all the land is most fair?

And the mirror answered:

MIRROR You are most fair, my Lady Queen. None fairer in the land, I've seen!

Then the queen was content for she knew that the mirror told her the truth. As Snow White grew up she became more and more beautiful. So much so, that she was even more beautiful than the queen herself. One day, the queen again asked the mirror who was the most beautiful lady in the country. The mirror replied:

MIRROR My Lady Queen, you are fair, it is true, But Snow White is fairer far than you.

The queen became frightened and was so jealous that she turned yellow and green. Hate and pride grew like weeds in her heart so that she had no rest, neither day nor night. Then she called the hunter and said to him.

QUEEN Take this child out into the woods, I do not want to see her again. The hunter obeyed her and took Snow White into the woods. But when he wanted to kill the innocent girl, Snow White started crying and begged the hunter:

SNOW WHITE Oh, dear hunter, do not take away my life! I will run far into the wild wood and never again return.

The hunter hearing this was filled with compassion and said:

HUNTER Then run, poor child run, run.

Now there was poor Snow White in the big forest all by herself. She was so frightened that she did not know what to do. She started running. She ran over sharp pointed stones and through thorn hedges. The wild animals met her on the way but did not harm her. She ran and ran as long as her little feet could carry her ----- till evening came. Then she saw a little house, walked into it and sat down to rest. The little house was small but it ever so dirty. In the centre stood a little table with seven small plates on a dirty table cloth. Each little plate had a tiny spoon. There were also seven knives and seven forks.

There were also seven little beakers on the table. Next to the wall there were seven little beds covered with beautiful white linen. Since Snow White was very hungry she ate a little vegetable and bread from each plate and drank a drop of wine from each beaker. She did not want to take away the food from one person alone. Then she felt very tired. She looked around and tried to find a suitable bed on which to lie. One bed was too long, one was too short, but finally she found one, the seventh, which was just the right size. Snow White lay down on it and fell asleep.

When it was dark, the seven dwarfs came home from their day's work, to find the house all nice and clean. As they lighted their seven lamps and saw that somebody had been in their little house. The first one who was called "Happy" said:

HAPPY

Who has been sitting on my little chair?

The second one who was called "Doc" said,

DOC

Who ate from my little plate?

The third one who was called "Sneezy" said,

SNEEZY

Who took some of my bread?

The fourth one who was called "Dopey" asked,

DOPEY

Who ate some of my vegetable?

The fifth one who was called "Bashful" asked,

BASHFUL

Who used my fork?

The sixth one who was called "Sleepy" said in a sleepy tone,

SLEEPY

Who used my knife?

The seventh dwarf who was called "Grumpy" for he was always in an angry mood stated,

GRUMPY

Who drank from my beaker?

And as Doc looked at his bed he discovered Snow White who he called all the others. They came running and held their lamps close to Snow White.

DWARFS

Oh!

They all shouted.

Doc

What a beautiful child.

They were so happy that they let her have her rest. Then the morning sun rose, Snow White woke up to find all those little men looking upon her. She became frightened, but they however, were very friendly and asked her her name.

SNOW WHITE

My name is Snow White.

She answered and told them what had happened. Then Sleepy said to her,

SLEEPY

Would you like to stay on with us, cook wash sew and knit for for all the seven of us?

And Snow White answered,

SNOW WHITE

Yes, I will do it with all my heart.

And so she stayed on and all together they became one happy family. In the meantime the queen, however was now convinced that she was the most beautiful woman in the country. She went back to the mirror and asked:

QUEEN Mirror, mirror hanging there. Who in all the land is most fair?
The mirror replied:

MIRROR My Lady Queen, you are it is true, But Snow White is fairer far than you
Snow White who dwells with seven little men. Is as fair as you as fair
again, again, again.....

Then the queen realised that Snow White was still alive.
She thought of how she could kill her. She dresses
herself as an old pedler's wife and walked over the
mountains to the dwarf's house. She knocked at the door
calling:

QUEEN Fine wares to sell, fine wares to sell!

Snow White looked out of the window and said to herself:

SNOW WHITE I can surely let this honest woman into the house.
She opened the door and let her in. The pedler's wife
had beautifully coloured silk strops which Snow White
bought.

QUEEN Child!
Said the old lady.

QUEEN What a sight you look! Come, let me tie them for you properly.
And she tied Snow White so tightly that Snow White fell
down dying.

QUEEN Now, you are no longer the most beautiful in the country.
Said the queen and hurried away. Soon after that the
little dwarfs came home. They were frightened when they
saw Snow White lying on the floor almost dead. They cut
the silk strops and Snow White gradually recovered again.
When the dwarfs heard what had happened they said:

WISEFUL The old pedler's wife was no one else but the queen. Be careful and
do not let anybody into the house again.

The wicked woman went home and asked her mirror:

QUEEN Mirror, Mirror, hanging there, who in all the land's most fair?
The mirror replied as usual:

MIRROR My Lady Queen you are fair, 'tis true but Snow White is fairer far
than you. Snow White who dwells with seven little men is fair as
you as fair again.

When she heard this she was deeply shocked and said:

QUEEN I will find something from which Snow White will not recover.
And she made a poisonous comb, changed her clothes and went
to the dwarf's house. When she arrived there, she knocked
at the door and shouted,

QUEEN Fine wares to sell! Fine wares to sell!

Snow White looked out of the window. The old lady held up
the comb and said,

QUEEN Now let me fix your hair properly.

Snow White did not think of anything evil and had her
hair combed by the old lady. As soon as she put the comb
into Snow White's hair, the girl fell down to the floor:

QUEEN This is the end of you!
Said the old lady and walked away.

When the dwarfs came home they found Snow White lying on the floor almost dead again. They thought immediately of her step-mother. They saw the comb, pulled it out of her hair and Snow White recovered once more and told them what had happened. The dwarfs told her again, never to open the door in future. After the queen had arrived home she asked the mirror whether she was still the most beautiful lady in the country. The mirror replied:

QUEEN My Lady Queen, you are fair, it is true; but Snow White is fairer than you. Snow White who dwells with seven little men is as fair as you, as fair again, again, again, again.....

Hearing this, she trembled with anger.

Snow White has to die once and for all.

She took an apple and poisoned it, changed her clothes into the clothes of an old lady working on a farm and went back to the house of the dwarfs. She knocked on the door. This time Snow White looked out of the window and said:

SNOW WHITE I may not let anybody come into this house.

QUEEN That does not matter. I just want to get rid of my apples so I am giving them out as gifts. Here my child have one.

SNOW WHITE I do not want one, thank you just the same.

QUEEN Are you afraid of being poisoned? Ah! Look here, I will cut the apple into two parts. You can have the red half to eat and I will eat the other half.

The red half was the poisoned one. Snow White could not resist any longer when she saw the old lady eating the other half and so she had one big bite. As soon as she took the bite, she fell to the floor, dead. The queen, then looked at her with evil eyes and said:

QUEEN This time the dwarfs will not be able to make you well again, ha ha ha.. Then she returned home and again asked the mirror :

QUEEN Mirror, mirror hanging there, who in all the land is most fair? And this time the mirror replied:

MIRROR You are most fair, my lady Queen. None fairer in the land, I've seen! Then the queen's jealous heart was at peace. When the dwarfs came home they found Snow White lying dead on the ground. There was no more breath in her body. They lifted her up, and placed her in the middle of the room and washed her with water and wine.

And so the child was dead and remained dead. They laid her on a bed and sat all around her mourning her for three days. Then they wanted to bury her. Since she was still so beautiful they decided to lay her in a glass coffin on which they wrote her name in golden letters. They took it in turns to guard her and to build the coffin. All the animals knew that something had happened. It was the saddest day the dwarfs and the animals had ever known, for they felt they were saying farewell for the last time to the lovely young girl they all loved so much.

