



Snow White

by Stephen Duckham

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PantoScripts Sample

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 WHITES' DREAM

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

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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 THRONEROOM IN THE CASTLE

[There is a dais UC with a throne on it. The CHORUS is on 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'll never know – I say I'll 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 chiropractist, 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 Aladdins' party! 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's 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 handy off the rosy!!

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 your 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 curtsy.]

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.....]