



Snow White

by Stephen Duckham

2026

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Snow White

CAST OF CHARACTERS

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

The Diamond Elves

CHIEF
SMILIE
DOZY
SNOOZY
SNIFFLES
TIMID
GROWLER

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

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

PROLOGUE

SCENE 1 THE THRONE ROOM IN THE CASTLE

SCENE 2 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

SCENE 3 THE BALLROOM

SCENE 4 THE EDGE OF THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

SCENE 5 DEEP IN THE FOREST (Transformation to the Elves Cottage)

SCENE 6 THE ELVES' COTTAGE/SNOW WHITE'S DREAM

ACT TWO

SCENE 1 THE BALLROOM

SCENE 2 THE DIAMOND MINE

SCENE 3 THE ELVES' COTTAGE

SCENE 4 THE QUEEN'S LABORATORY

SCENE 5 THE EDGE OF THE FORBIDDEN FOREST

SCENE 6 THE ELVES' COTTAGE

SCENE 7 THE QUEEN'S LABORATORY

SCENE 8 A CORRIDOR IN THE CASTLE

SCENE 9 THE BALLROOM

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PRODUCTION NOTES

THE SEVEN

In this updated version of Snow White, I have called the Diamond characters Elves. If you prefer to use the more traditional title of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, this is perfectly acceptable. With only slight changes to a few references and the name of the Cottage scenes, the script remains the same.

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 are 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
characters.

The Seven Elves whose names describe their

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.

The Elves: I have called them 'Elves', but they can be any set of mortals you choose. Their characters must remain the same, but they can be adults or played by younger members. If your company has a Youth Group, it is an ideal way to incorporate them into the pantomime. Costumes can be whatever fits the characters.

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SCENERY

The settings can be as elaborate or as 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 Prologue can be played on black tabs, with various lighting areas used to pick out the characters. A table containing all of Malevolent's props can be set down stage left. This can also be used in Act 2 Scene 4 as the Laboratory.

If front cloths are available, two can be used: one for the Corridor and one for the Edge of the Forbidden 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 Elves' Cottage as a permanent piece at the back of the stage and add the furniture down stage. Only two or three beds need to be visible, leaving the audience to assume the others continue off stage.

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 Elves' Cottage. As Snow White goes through the door, the lights fade out, and the door piece is removed as the tabs open.

The magic mirror doesn't have to be too complicated. If it can be mounted on a small truck and move on and off down stage left. The Spirit can either sit behind it or move into position as she responds to the Queen's question.

MUSIC

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 have a great success with your production.

Stephen Duckham

ACT ONE
PROLOGUE

INTRODUCTION MUSIC

[The introduction music continues through the following sequence. It is performed as a mime, telling the story that is heard in the Voice-Over.]

v/o

Once long ago in a far-off land ruled by a kindly King, - *[Light on a happy KING.]* - there lived seven men, known as the Diamond Elves. *[The lights come up on the SEVEN ELVES.]* Every morning, they would go to work in a secret diamond mine that was only known to them. *[The ELVES hold up strings of diamonds.]* Most of the proceeds from the mine were given to the Kingdom, so all would prosper. *[The CHORUS react as happy members of the Kingdom.]* But also living in the land was a wicked enchantress, Malevolent. *[Light on MALEVOLENT as she enters left.]* She bewitched the King into marrying her, and therein fulfilled her two treasured desires in life: to possess a wealth of diamonds and to be the most beautiful woman in the land. When the old King died, she became Queen but cared little for her subjects. She demanded that the Elves give all the diamonds to her. When they refused, she threatened to imprison them; so one night, they left the kingdom and went to live deep in the forbidden forest. The Queen continued to draw on the land's wealth to perfect a potion that would grant her unmatched beauty. The Kingdom and its people began to suffer, but all Queen Malevolent thought about was herself.

[The QUEEN moves down stage left to a table containing bottles of bubbling liquids and other mysterious objects. If a front set of Black tabs is available, they now close behind her. The QUEEN stands holding a goblet.]

QUEEN This delicious elixir brings eternal youth and beauty to whoever drinks it, and only I know the formula! I intend to be the most beautiful woman in the kingdom. No one can be more beautiful than I. 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 answers truthfully. And now to drink the potion. *[SHE drinks. Thunder cracks.]* Oh, that is truly wonderful. 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 at the mirror and SPIRIT disappears.]* I am now the most beautiful in the land! *[SHE laughs as the lights fade. The VOICE-OVER continues.]*

v/o Although the people of the land had fallen on hard times, their spirits had always remained high. This was because of one person. The old King's treasured daughter, Snow White. She cared deeply about the people, and they loved her. But the Queen despised her and treated her no better than a servant. Our story continues on a very special day. Snow White's eighteenth birthday.

[During the final Voice-Over, the table has been cleared and the tabs open on -]

SCENE 1 THE THRONE ROOM IN THE CASTLE

[There is a dais UC with a throne on it. The CHORUS is singing the opening number, 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** 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 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 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.

3rd. WOMAN So you can see why we're singing and dancing.

4th. MAN To cheer ourselves up and celebrate Snow White's coming of age.

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 few nibbles 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.]* 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? 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** *[Looking up.]* I can see right up your nose!
- LORD CH.** Oh, get up.
- ANDY** I'll have you know, 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 dogsbody!
- 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 – [*Name of shop.*] – had 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 take 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 I thought perhaps if I planted it, it might grow into a big rosebush.

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? *[Audience reaction.]* Good, let's give it a go. *[The audience calls out. ANDY gets them to do it louder.]* 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's the birthday girl herself.

SNOW WHITE'S ENTRANCE

[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 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 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 spending it with all of you is all I want to do.

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 Aladdin's party! Oh no! That's the wrong story! *[SHE reverses her speech and movement like rewinding a film.]* I'm safe and sound, and I've got everything 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 anymore. *[SHE starts to get tearful.]* Mind you, I wouldn't blame her. I'd like some big, hairy brute to 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.]

BOY Dame Doitall, have you got everything for Snow White's party?

DAME This is *[Boy's name]*, everyone. He tried to pick me up at *[Local night-club]* the other night. Offered to show me his Vauxhall Corsa! Cheeky young thing! *[BOY hangs his head.]* Yes, *[Name.]* I have everything on the list. Give the others a shout so they can help you unload.

[The BOY gives a loud whistle (SFX if needed)] He's so butch for his age!

SONG - DAME, ANDY AND CHORUS

[The music starts as the BOY beckons for the others to come on. CHORUS BOYS and ANDY enter and go into the following number. The rest of the CHORUS enter if required. The shopping trolley is pushed off stage.]

Here we go, boys. Let's liven this place up!

[SHE performs the number with everyone. 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 skinny little girl?

DAME She's not a little girl anymore. 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 *[Snapping angrily.]* Yes? What is it?

LORD CH. We have a visitor. I say, we have a visitor. Prince Rupert of Ruritania.

QUEEN *[With a complete change of mood.]* Prince Rupert? Why, he is 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 Ruritania.

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 small accident, I'm afraid. The 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** Snow White deserves her birthday party. She's 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 around to make sure she's alone and makes a magic pass. The lights change, and the mirror appears.]*

MIRROR MUSIC

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 MIRROR and SPIRIT disappear.]

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 will tell me once again that I am the fairest in the land.
- [SHE 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 hard and get everything done, she'll be a little kinder 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 Ruritania. [*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 born.

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. SNOW 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 on my way 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.....]

PantoScripts Perusal

SCENE 2 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 floppy ears and a couple of 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.** 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 were married, I wouldn't argue. Especially if I were 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 only him. Now I'll never get a look-in!
- DAME** Cheer up, Andy. There are plenty more fish in the sea.
- ANDY** Who?
- DAME** *[Beaming at him.]* Me!
- ANDY** You??
- DAME** Why not? I've still got the complexion of a young lady of twenty!
- ANDY** Well, give it back to her - you're wrinkling it!
- DAME** I always used to be the belle of the ball.
- ANDY** Until your clanger dropped off!

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 I'm sorry, 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 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!