

SNOW WHITE AND THE LITTLE MEN

*(Based very loosely upon the tales by the Bros. Grimm.
First produced at Brown Ledge Camp, 1975.)*

Conceived and Written by
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Story of the Play

In this farce, a narrator helps the action and humor even to the point of carrying off the good queen, who doesn't want to die after Snow White, is born. The evil queen can't make up a rhyme that's worth a darn before the magic mirror, and she even forgets her apples are poisonous and eats one at the wedding of the Prince and Snow.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NARRATOR

GOOD QUEEN

CREW MEMBER

NURSE

KING

ANOTHER WIFE

MAN

EVIL QUEEN

MIRROR

SNOW WHITE

HUNTSMAN

BORE

DWARF #1

DWARF #3

DWARF #5

DWARF #7

PRINCE

(DWARFS #2, 4 and 6 are dummies supported between the odd-numbered DWARFS.)

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(AT RISE: There is a stool SL which the NARRATOR will sit on and a chair or short stool SR which serves as the throne for the GOOD QUEEN. The NARRATOR begins:)

NARRATOR: Once upon a time in the middle of winter, when the snowflakes were falling like feathers from the sky *(Feathers fall on the NARRATOR's head.)* ... and feathers were falling like snowflakes ... *(Snowflakes fall on the NARRATOR's head.)* ... and dead birds were falling like dead birds ... *(Rubber chicken falls on NARRATOR's head.)* Well, anyhow, it was during this time, oh, so very long ago that a queen sat at her window working on her embroidery. *(GOOD QUEEN enters and sits on throne embroidering.)* And as she worked, gazing at times out the window at the snow, *(GOOD QUEEN, in stilted manner, looks back and forth between her work and the snow through the "window.")* ... she pricked her finger.

GOOD QUEEN: *(Great pained expressions and then very simply.)* Ouch!

NARRATOR: And there fell from her pricked finger, three drops of her blood and they fell upon the snow. *(QUEEN counts the three drops of blood.)* When she saw how bright and red it looked, she said:

GOOD QUEEN: Goodness gracious! I always thought I was a blue-blood!

NARRATOR: And then she said:

GOOD QUEEN: You know I really can't stand the sight of blood.

NARRATOR: And then she said:

GOOD QUEEN: I think I'm going to faint.

NARRATOR: And then she did.

GOOD QUEEN: Ooooooooooooooh! *(SHE faints.)*

NARRATOR: Now we all know that if she hadn't fainted then and there, she would have wished for a daughter. She would have said:

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GOOD QUEEN: *(Raises head.)* Oh, that I had a child as white as snow, lips as red as blood is red and hair as black as black is black in the black of night. *(Head down.)*

NARRATOR: That is what she would have said if she hadn't fainted. Well, not very long after she didn't say that, she had a daughter.

GOOD QUEEN: *(Baby doll is thrown in. QUEEN picks it up.)* Oh, look! I have a daughter!!!

NARRATOR: Her daughter's skin was as white as snow, her lips as red as blood is red and her hair as black as black is black in the black of night.

GOOD QUEEN: I think I shall name her Rumpelstiltskin!

NARRATOR: But she didn't, because when the baby was born, the Queen died.

GOOD QUEEN: Aw, no.

NARRATOR: Sorry.

GOOD QUEEN: Gee whiz, cut me a break.

NARRATOR: The Queen died!

(The QUEEN tosses the baby aside and dies - or so we think. She starts an elaborate death scene. Finally the NARRATOR motions offstage to a CREW MEMBER.)

NARRATOR: Finally the Queen was dead.

(CREW MEMBER enters and drags out QUEEN, still in her death throes. NURSE enters.)

NURSE: *(Picks up baby.)* Hello, there. I'm the castle nurse. I will take care of the dead Queen's baby. I will call her Rapunzel.

NARRATOR: But she didn't.

NURSE: You mean?

NARRATOR: Yup! *(NURSE falls down dead. CREW MEMBER drags her off. NARRATOR picks up baby and continues.)* I am the Narrator and I will call her Snow White so that we can get on with the story. *(Throws doll offstage.)* Now after the Good Queen had been dead for a year or so, the King took another wife.

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KING: (*Enters with WIFE.*) Hello, I'm the King and I'm taking another wife

WIFE: Hello, I'm the "another wife" you've heard so much about.

MAN: (*Enters.*) Hello, I'm a man. I just watched the King take another wife. The only trouble is that she was my wife before he took her. Give me back my wife! (*Chases KING and WIFE offstage.*)

NARRATOR: That's the kind of trouble you can get into when you take a wife.

KING: (*Re-enters.*) Excuse me, but I have a problem.

NARRATOR: Maybe I can help you. What is it?

KING: You remember that wife I took?

NARRATOR: Yes.

KING: Well, I can't remember where I took her.

NARRATOR: Oh.

KING: Oh, well ... I guess I'll go take another wife. (*KING exits.*)

NARRATOR: Well, the King took another wife. But this time, she wasn't already married and so everything went a lot better. (*EVIL QUEEN enters.*) The only problem with the new Queen was that she was very beautiful. Now being beautiful all by itself isn't so bad. The real problem was that she was also very proud, and pride can make the most beautiful woman into the most evil of witches.

QUEEN: Watch it, buster, or I'll wash your mouth out with soap.

NARRATOR: The new Queen was so overbearing and proud that she could not bear to be surpassed in beauty by anyone. She had a magic looking glass (*MIRROR enters.*) and she used to stand before it every day and say: "Mirror, mirror with funny feet, you look like something from trick or treat. Answer fast and do not stall: Who's the fairest one of all?"

NARRATOR: And the mirror replied:

MIRROR: Stones and mace may break my face;
which words will never do.

Your rhymes still stink,
but anyhow, no one's as fair as you.

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NARRATOR: And so the Queen was contented because she knew the Mirror spoke the truth -

QUEEN: Except about my rhyming ability!

(QUEEN steps on MIRROR'S foot.)

MIRROR: Ouch, ooh, ow, etcetera!

NARRATOR: *(As QUEEN and MIRROR exit.)* Except about the rhymes. Now Snow White was growing up and as she grew, she became more and more beautiful. Now when Snow White was seven years old ... *(SNOW WHITE enters.)* ... she was ... ah ... "big" for her age ... I mean when she was seven years old she was far more beautiful than the Queen.

SNOW WHITE: *(Chewing a big wad of gum.)* Thanks, dude. You're cute, too. *(SHE giggles.)*

NARRATOR: Beautiful, but stupid! *(SNOW WHITE giggles.)* So one day when the Queen went to her mirror and said:

(MIRROR and QUEEN re-enter.)

QUEEN: Mirror, mirror, standing there,
tell me now who is most fair.

NARRATOR: The mirror said:

MIRROR: When counting brains you can compare,
but as for "bod," Snow White's most fair.

NARRATOR: This gave the Queen quite a shock.

QUEEN: Ho-boy! That gives me quite a shock! *(SNOW WHITE giggles. The NARRATOR gives her a look.)*

NARRATOR: From that moment on, the Queen's heart was turned against Snow White. She hated her.

SNOW WHITE: And she didn't like me, either. *(SHE giggles.)*

End of Freeview

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