

SNOW WHITE and the FAMILY DWARF

Adapted from the fairy tale

By Greg Palmer

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SNOW WHITE AND THE FAMILY DWARF

Here's the familiar story of Snow White but with enough plot twists and turns to keep all of us guessing what will happen next! The Dwarfs, including three sisters and four brothers, are a regular-sized family named Dwarf. While Snow's appearance in their midst is a surprise, they show that unlike the Queen's focus on physical beauty, real beauty is in caring for each other. At the end Snow does not automatically ride off with the Prince because he's handsome. She makes a rational decision about who loves her, whom she loves and why. Perfect for audiences of all ages.

Approximate running time: 90 minutes.

This script was commissioned by the Seattle Children's Theatre in 1987. It was subsequently adapted by the author and filmed as a teleplay by KING 5 Television with great success. Recipient of the "Action For Children's Television-Best Family Home Video" award, "Ohio State Award-Best Children's Program," and the "Parent's Choice Magazine Silver Medal."

Original cast under the direction of Linda Hartzell:

*Elliot/Old Man.....A.J. Paterson
The Queen.....Deanna Duplechain
Mirror/Prince.....Skip Roberts
Peg/Snow's Mother.....Jeanne Lee
Snow White.....Annajo Trowbridge
Howie/Servant/Mirror One.....Edward Christian
Walt/Huntsman/Mirror Three ..Douglas R. Mumaw
Roy.....Floyd VanBuskirk
Rose.....Peggy Platt
Jean Louise/Mirror Two.....Seena Merrell*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(9 m, 9 w. With doubling 5 m, 5 w.)

SNOW WHITE: The fairest in many ways.

WALT: The oldest Dwarf brother, and their leader when one is needed.

ROY: The second Dwarf brother, a laconic hunter-gatherer.

ROSE: The next oldest Dwarf, an Earth sister.

ELLIOT: The brightest of the Dwarfs, but a young man with issues.

HOWIE: The inventive Dwarf brother; the family geek.

JEAN LOUISE: The Dwarf sister with magical powers.

PEG: The youngest Dwarf, a 19-year-old with developmental disabilities.

QUEEN: Proof that beauty is only skin deep.

MIRROR: An eternally prophetic wise guy.

THE PRINCE: Handsome, and that's about it.

SNOW'S MOTHER

THE HUNTSMAN

SERVANT

OLD MAN: Blind. Runs the magic shop.

WALL MIRROR 1

WALL MIRROR 2

WALL MIRROR 3

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Act I

- Scene 1: A magic shop
- Scene 2: The Queen's chamber, nineteen years later
- Scene 3: A clearing in the forest (See note below.)
- Scene 4: The Dwarfs' cottage, midday
- Scene 5: The Dwarfs' cottage, that evening
- Scene 6: The Queen's chamber, that evening
- Scene 7: The Dwarfs' cottage, later that evening

Act II

- Scene 1: The Dwarfs' cottage, the next morning
- Scene 2: Dwarfs' cottage, a few hours later
- Scene 3: The Queen's chamber, the same day
- Scene 4: Dwarfs' cottage, morning of the next day
- Scene 5: A clearing in the forest, near the Dwarfs' cottage
- Scene 6: Another part of the forest
- Scene 7: The clearing in the forest near the Dwarfs' cottage

Note: Act I, Scene 3

In this scene a teenage girl is attacked by an adult male she thought a friend. And because that is exactly the scenario of a high percentage of the real attacks on young women, the creators of the original production felt it was important that this scene reflect current thinking on women's self defense in such situations. Rather than the Disney version of the attack, in which Snow begs for her life and depends for her survival on the Huntsman's compassion, everyone we consulted thought Snow should defend herself in acceptable ways. Therefore we engaged Py Bateman, founder of Alternatives to Fear and one of America's leading experts in women's self defense—a field she entered decades ago as the result of personally surviving a murderous attack. Py choreographed the scene for that original production (and the film version.) and the description of the scene in this script reflects her insight and involvement.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: A magic shop. Various traditional magic props—top hats, the rings—are evident. On one wall are three head-size mirrors—MIRRORS 1-3. MIRROR lingers on the edge of the light. A lamp on the shop counter is the only obvious illumination. Behind the counter is an OLD MAN, dressed wizardly, staring into space. He is blind.. SFX: a shop bell, then an offstage door opening and closing. OLD MAN doesn't react to this. QUEEN enters, much younger than we will see her eventually, but already beautiful and aware of it, already menacing and aware of that as well. She browses briefly, scornfully picking up and rejecting objects.)

OLD MAN: What do you want now?

QUEEN: How did you know it was me?

OLD MAN: I knew.

QUEEN: I've heard about a mirror. A special mirror.

OLD MAN: Being special is up to you, not the mirror.

QUEEN: Then I shouldn't have any problem.

OLD MAN: Perhaps.

QUEEN: Do you have the mirror or don't you?

OLD MAN: Mirrors are what magic is all about, Princess.

Seeing, but not believing; believing what you do not see. I have many mirrors.

QUEEN: Do you have the mirror I want!?

OLD MAN: There. *(Pointing, but not looking where he points.)*

QUEEN: *(Going to MIRROR, seeing herself.)* Just...look at me!

OLD MAN: Pass.

QUEEN: How do I know this is the right mirror?

OLD MAN: It is.

QUEEN: Prove it.

OLD MAN: Mirror, Mirror, on the wall,
Who will rise and who will fall?

(MIRROR'S face appears in the glass.)

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MIRROR: In a castle in a wood,
A girl will grow to womanhood.
Her beauty shines like the brightest sun;
All will love her, excepting one.
Hatred beckons, beauty rises,
That girl will get life's best surprises.

QUEEN: It means me, doesn't it?!

OLD MAN: Seeing and believing.

QUEEN: I'll give you a hundred krakenknockers for that
mirror, and not a penny more.

OLD MAN: (*Brandishing typical magician's rings, doing a
quick ring trick.*) Are you sure you wouldn't like the rings
instead? Hours of family fun!

QUEEN: I want that mirror!

MIRROR: I'm all yours.

(SFX: thunder and lightning.)

OLD MAN: It's going to snow for a very long time.

QUEEN: (*Looking out.*) It is snowing! I have to get home. A
footman will come back for the mirror.

(QUEEN exits; SFX: shop bell.)

MIRROR: So, out I go again. (*Hands come out sides with
sponge and cloth, reaches around and begins cleaning
himself.*)

(WALL MIRRORS 1-3 faces appear as they speak in turn.)

WALL MIRROR #1: This one will hate you before it's over.

WALL MIRROR #2: They all hate us eventually.

WALL MIRROR #3: It just takes longer with some.

WALL MIRROR #1: Growing old...

WALL MIRROR #2: Growing ugly...

WALL MIRROR #3: Turning into someone they don't know.

WALL MIRRORS 1-3: (*In unison.*) No wonder they hate us.

(OLD MAN reaches for the shop light on the counter, pulls chain, stage goes dark—light slowly fades on WALL MIRRORS as their faces recede and the mirrors return to normal.)

End of Scene

Scene 2 –

(AT RISE: Queen's chamber, 19 years later, snow again falling outside. MIRROR is here; also extremely crowded vanity table, a grand lounging chair or fainting couch, and a free-standing, Queen-sized closet. HUNTSMAN and SERVANT are discovered looking out the window; HUNTSMAN holds a large jug of a foul-looking green glop; SERVANT wearing a tunic emblazoned with a large picture of the Queen.)

HUNTSMAN: Nineteen terrible winters in a row! Nineteen!

SERVANT: And the summers haven't been much better.
Rain all the time...

HUNTSMAN: Being the Royal Huntsman used to be easy!
Wander through the woods, scare up a boar, boom, dinner on the table. Now I'm covered with moss half the year!

SERVANT: It's no easier in the palace, Roger. Life has been awful since the King married that...that person!

HUNTSMAN: She is beautiful.

SERVANT: A fat lot of good her beauty does us fetch-and-carry men. I don't know what the late King was thinking of.

HUNTSMAN: You don't?

SERVANT: Come on. We have two more hogsheads of wrinkle remover to bring up.

(HUNTSMAN puts green stuff down next to vanity table, and he and SERVANT start to exit. QUEEN enters, her face covered with identical green glop, her hair in curlers; they surprise each other.)

End of Freeview

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