

SNOW WHITE AND ROSE RED

By Carter Burch

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STORY OF THE PLAY

Based on the Grimm's fairy tale about the sisters Rose Red and Snow White, this play has all the classic characters: the poor but beautiful daughters, the handsome ruler turned into an animal by evil magic, the evil troll, and the even more evil tax collectors. In the beginning, however, not everything is as perfect as the fairy tale makes it out to be. Rose Red is focused on finding the troll's treasure and ignores everything else. Snow White thinks people should work instead of having fun. The prince is a self-centered, spoiled brat, who sticks to the letter of the law and wishes he could fight wars and chop off peoples' heads. The evil troll...well actually, he is as evil as the stories make him out to be.

However, things start to change. The evil troll turns the prince into a bear who cannot remember he is a prince. Since he really is a prince, the bear is not all that good at doing bear things like finding food. Even worse, he does not get tired when the other bears go into hibernation. Hungry, alone and not at all sleepy, the bear knocks on Rose and Snowy's door hoping to find someone with whom he can talk. There is a little screaming when the fearsome looking, but gentle bear appears at the door. However, the bear seems very sad and lonely, so Rose and Snowy invite him to stay for the winter. He learns to work, care for others, and that laws can be really unfair sometimes.

In the end, the bear helps banish the troll and punish the evil tax collectors. Like all fairy tales, the love the sisters have for him helps the bear become human again. The prince is reunited with his father who never stopped searching for him. Everyone gets to live happily ever after. Snow White marries the prince, her mother is named the new tax collector and Rose Red gets to study with the king's wise men (and maybe go after the treasure again).

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(4/5 M, 4 W)

TROLL: Evil looking man.

ROSE RED: Young girl with red hair.

SNOW WHITE: Rose's blonde sister.

KING: Prince Seymore's father.

PRINCE SEYMORE: Handsome son of the King.

MOTHER: Of Rose and Snow.

DAME FRUMPSTEIN: Tax collector.

OLAF: Dame's slow-witted son.

BROWN BEAR: Can be played by prince or someone else.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Scene 1 - The Forest, long ago, an autumn day.

Scene 2 - The Cottage, a fortnight later.

Scene 3 - The Cottage, several months later.

Scene 4 - The Forest, a short time later.

Scene 5 - The Forest, a few moments later.

Scene 6 - The Cottage, a short time later.

SET DESCRIPTION

The troll's forest is the typical dark and foreboding place one would expect to find only the most evil and despicable of creatures. Tall trees have long gnarly branches and there are several rocks and large boulders of various shapes. One of the rocks is the troll's treasure rock.

The sisters' cottage is simple but homey. There is a kitchen table with chairs and a fireplace to provide warmth and a place to cook. There is also a door with a sliding bolt lock on it. The cottage should be small as the family is not rich. (Although not so small that one could not have a bear stay for the winter, of course!)

PROPS

Troll - Long cloak, cap, small gray cloth bag, gold coins, bundle with sandwich in it, bag with colored powders.

Rose Red - 2 forked sticks, large book, frying pan, peasant dress.

Snow White - Basket of berries, bowl of berries, peasant dress.

Prince Seymore - Long trumpet, cloak, gold amulet, scabbard, shiny whistle.

Brown Bear - 2 large sacks, 3 colored balls.

King - Forked stick, royal robes and a crown.

Mother - Shawl, Blankets.

SFX

Trumpet blare

Knock on door

Another

"Boing" of frying pan on bear's head

Another

Loud knock on door

Knock on door

Growling

Scene 1

(AT RISE: The terrible TROLL of the forest enters. He is not particularly tall but his body is wide and sturdy. He has a black, scruffy beard, long pointed ears and large teeth. He wears a long cloak and cap and has an angry, evil expression on his face. He carries a small, gray cloth bag in his hands. He crosses to a large rock CS and takes some gold coins out of the bag. He laughs as he sifts the coins through his fingers. He puts the coins back in the bag then looks around suspiciously. He then pushes the top of the rock away, which reveals a secret glowing chamber. He puts the bag of coins in the hole and covers the hole by pulling back the top of the rock causing the glow to fade away. He pats the rock and smiles, but then he is startled by a voice in the distance.)

SNOW WHITE: *(Off-stage.)* Rose Red! Rose Red! Where are you?

(The TROLL again looks around the forest. He is angry and suspicious.)

TROLL: Someone is in my forest! A thief, perhaps, come to steal my treasure! I must hide myself and see who it is.

(The TROLL quickly hides behind a tree. ROSE RED enters. She is a pretty, red-haired girl wearing a simple peasant dress. She walks slowly as if in a trance. She is holding a forked stick out in front of her in the manner of water witching. Rose Red searches the area for a few moments then seems to sense something. She looks at the rock with the treasure in it. She holds her stick out toward the rock. She steps toward the rock, eyes closed, concentrating intensely. The Troll steps out from behind the tree and raises his hands in a threatening manner. Suddenly SNOW WHITE enters carrying a basket of berries. She is a beautiful girl with golden hair. She also wears a simple peasant dress. She does not see the troll.)

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SNOW WHITE: Rose Red! So, there you are!

(The TROLL jumps back behind the tree. ROSE RED lowers her forked stick and turns toward SNOW WHITE in exasperation.)

ROSE RED: Snow White, please do not shout at me like that. It spoils my concentration.

SNOW WHITE: I am sorry, Rose, but I have been looking everywhere for you.

ROSE RED: Whatever for, Snowy! I thought you were supposed to be gathering the snarkberries.

SNOW WHITE: WE, Rose Red! We are supposed to be gathering the snarkberries! Both of us! That is why I came for you.

ROSE RED: Oh, well, you go ahead. I will be along in a minute or two.

SNOW WHITE: You have been saying that all afternoon. It is almost dark now. You know how Mother will scold us if our baskets are not filled. We must gather enough snarkberries to last us the winter, and we have only a few days left before it turns cold.

ROSE RED: I hate snarkberries! They taste like old crabapples covered with mud. And besides, I am so close to finding the treasure, I can feel it! I know it is close by.

SNOW WHITE: Oh, Rose, what am I to do with you? There is no treasure out here. You must not listen to those ridiculous tales the old men in the village like to tell.

ROSE RED: They are not stories, Snow White. There really is a terrible troll of the forest. He robs travelers on the highway, and hides his treasure in a hollow rock.

SNOW WHITE: Rose Red, you are such a goose! I do not believe in trolls, and I do not believe in wild stories about buried treasure.

ROSE RED: But you must believe it, Snowy. If we search hard enough, we can find that old troll's treasure, and then we shall never have to eat snarkberries again. *(ROSE holds out her forked stick and begins to search again.)*

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SNOW WHITE: Rose! I insist you stop this foolishness at once! To use a forked stick like that...you know it is against the law. They say it is witchcraft.

ROSE RED: Oh, pooh! I am no more a witch than I am the Queen of Egypt. And you know it works, Snowy. You have seen my hazel rod snap to the ground when I looked for a place to dig our well. And did not we find water there?

SNOW WHITE: Well...yes, but...

ROSE RED: And how about when I used my rod to find Mother's lost ring, or the yarn that kitty hid under the rain barrel...

SNOW WHITE: It was all luck, Rose Red. I do not believe in any of it. And what if the Constable saw you with that awful stick? Or even worse, the Lord Mayor? He would lock you in the pillory in the village square. Mother would be so ashamed.

ROSE RED: I do not care if the King himself saw me. I am going to find that treasure. Now please, leave me alone, Snow White.

(ROSE RED resumes searching with her rod. Exasperated, SNOW WHITE sits on a rock and sulks. Unseen by the two sisters, the TROLL steps out from behind the tree.)

TROLL: *(Aside.)* These two young peasants dare to think they can steal my treasure! Bah! I know what to do with thieves. I will catch them both and eat them for my supper! That will teach them to trifle with the terrible troll of the forest!

(The TROLL creeps up behind SNOW WHITE. ROSE RED is wandering around trance-like so she does not see him. The Troll is about to grab Snow White with his big hairy hands, when suddenly the unpleasant blare of a trumpet is heard off-stage. The Troll is startled and quickly scrambles behind the tree. Snow White also reacts to the noise. Rose Red is blithely unaware of anything as she searches.)

End of Freeview

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