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Dramatic Publishing



A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

Snow White
and the Seven Dwarfs
of the Black Forest

Adapted from the Grimm story

by

JUNE WALKER ROGERS



THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY



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(SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS
OF THE BLACK FOREST)

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SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS
OF THE BLACK FOREST
A Play in Two Acts
For Nine Men, Ten Women, A Voice, and Extras

CHARACTERS

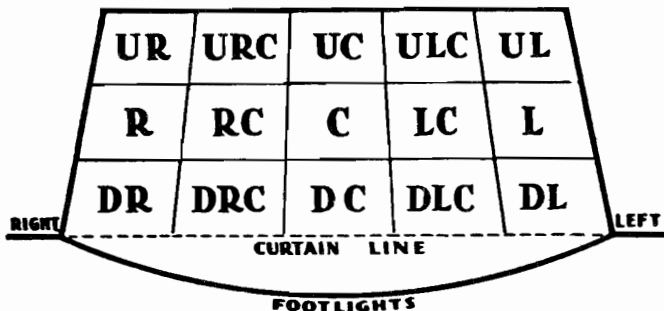
TIME		<i>a passer-by</i>
KING		<i>who is absent-minded</i>
SNOW WHITE		<i>the King's daughter</i>
BUNNY)		
BONNIE)		<i>rabbits</i>
PRIMROSE		<i>a skunk</i>
TILLIE		<i>a turtle</i>
MAID DIM WITTY		<i>the Queen's servant</i>
QUEEN BELLA		<i>the King's vain wife</i>
SCULLY		<i>the King's servant</i>
HOOT		<i>the wise owl</i>
HICKORY)		
DICKORY)		
DOCK)		
WEEPY)		
CURLY)		<i>the seven dwarfs</i>
ECHO ECHO)		
LITTLE BANJO)		
THE PRINCE		
THE MIRROR		<i>only a voice</i>

and the trees of the Black Forest

PLACE: *The Black Forest.*

TIME: *Once Upon a Time.*

CHART OF STAGE POSITIONS



STAGE POSITIONS

Upstage means away from the footlights, *downstage* means toward the footlights, and *right* and *left* are used with reference to the actor as he faces the audience. R means *right*, L means *left*, U means *up*, D means *down*, C means *center*, and these abbreviations are used in combination, as: UR for *up right*, RC for *right center*, DLC for *down left center*, etc. A territory designated on the stage refers to a general area, rather than to a given point.

NOTE: Before starting rehearsals, chalk off your stage or rehearsal space as indicated above in the *Chart of Stage Positions*. Then teach your actors the meanings and positions of these fundamental terms of stage movement by having them walk from one position to another until they are familiar with them. The use of these abbreviated terms in directing the play saves time, speeds up rehearsals, and reduces the amount of explanation the director has to give to his actors.

ACT ONE

(A figure appears before the curtain. She is dressed all in black --perhaps a leotard, perhaps black slacks or skirt and sweater --but all over her are hung symbols of Time. A large clock face with movable hands covers her chest, a calendar hangs from her waist, she wears an hourglass on her head. Watches, alarm clocks, sundials, and anything else like that may decorate her. She speaks to the audience.)

TIME. Once upon a time . . . nearly every story begins with those words . . . "once upon a time" . . . but did you ever think what or who they mean? Well, they mean me. I'm Miss On Time. You may know my brother Mark Time, or my sister, May Time. I know you know my father -- Father Time. He started the whole Time business, but he's semi-retired now and I take a lot of his calls. Especially in the Story Department . . . because stories depend a lot On Time. Well, I may as well get on with it. Once upon a Time . . .

(As she speaks, the curtains open on a simple set suggesting an exterior. There are a few trees or bushes and flowers about. There may be as much or as little as the designer wishes; the only thing there must be is a tree which unfolds later into a house.)

TIME

. . . there was a happy land ruled by a king.

(From behind one of the trees a
KING appears.)

KING

I'm the king and my name is . . . my name is
. . . it's on the tip of my tongue . . . I beg your
pardon, but what is my name?

TIME

King Absent-Minded, your majesty.

KING

Hmm. Very apt, if I say so myself.

TIME

And this King had a lovely, motherless daughter.

KING

And her name?

TIME

And her name was Snow White.

(SNOW WHITE steps out from be-
hind a tree.)

KING

Oh, yes. My lovely, motherless daughter,
Snow White.

SNOW WHITE

You called, Father?

KING

Yes, I guess I did . . . but . . . I do remember --
(Looking at TIME.) -- I wanted to talk to you
privately.

TIME

Excuse me. (She tap dances toward the wings.
To audience.) That's a time step.
(She exits R.)

KING (having taken a few steps forward to watch
her exit).

Hmmm. Very pleasant girl. (SNOW WHITE
moves to beside him. She waits for him to turn
and look at her, but he continues to gaze offstage.
Finally she coughs a little to get his attention.
He still doesn't turn. She coughs louder and
louder. He turns, and sees her.) Ah, Snow
White . . .

SNOW WHITE

Yes, Father.
(They stand looking at each other and
smiling, with the smiles getting bigger
and bigger.)

KING (finally breaking the silence).

Well?

SNOW WHITE

Well, Father?

KING

Uh, well, what can I do for you, my child?

SNOW WHITE

But you asked to see me, Father.

KING

I did? Oh! Oh, yes, I did, didn't I? Now let me see. What could have been so important? Ah, yes, of course. I wanted to tell you that I have remarried.

SNOW WHITE

Remarried, Father?

KING

Yes. I can't quite believe it myself. It all happened so fast. But now the kingdom will have a new queen and you, my sweet, will have a new mother.

SNOW WHITE

How exciting, Father. What is she like? When will she come? Oh, please, tell me.

KING

Now, now, calm down, my child. First of all, if I remember correctly, the coach is bringing Queen Bella . . . Queen Bella? . . . yes, Queen Bella this afternoon.

SNOW WHITE

Bella. What a beautiful name.

KING (dreamily).

An appropriate name for a beautiful woman.

SNOW WHITE (smiling with affection at the KING).

How romantic, Father.

KING (flustered).

It is, sort of, isn't it? Hmm. Oh, well, I must be going. Lots of things to be done. Oh, yes, indeed.

(The KING exits UR as SNOW WHITE dances around singing happily.)

SNOW WHITE

I feel simply marvelous. (She stops dancing.)
I can't wait to tell my friends. (Calling in different directions.) Bunny! Bonnie! Primrose!
Tillie!

(BUNNY AND BONNIE, the rabbits, hop out from L. PRIMROSE, the skunk, slinks out in a tango step, with a rose between her teeth, from stage R; and TILLIE, the turtle, comes out slowly, inching her way from UL.)

BUNNY

What's up, Snow White?

BONNIE (still hopping).

You look so hopingly happy.

SNOW WHITE (clasping Bonnie's paws and hopping up and down).

Oh, I am. I've got news for you!

PRIMROSE (giving SNOW WHITE the rose).

A rose is a rose is a rose, from the skunk with a nose for the news.

TILLIE (who still hasn't reached the others).

Don't say a word until I get there!

ALL

Well, hurry, hurry, Tillie Turtle!

TILLIE (huffing and puffing).

I'm hurrying. Have you ever seen me move so fast before?

(Everyone surrounds SNOW WHITE.)

SNOW WHITE

Friends, what have I wanted more than anything in the world?

BONNIE (to BUNNY).

We're playing "Twenty Questions." (To SNOW WHITE.) I know! A date with that new prince who moved into the neighborhood.

SNOW WHITE (embarrassed).

No . . . I admit that has crossed my mind -- but this is something I've prayed for, for as long as I can remember. I have a new mother!

BONNIE (excited).

Do you mean your father has remarried?

SNOW WHITE

Yes.

BUNNY

And we have a new queen?

SNOW WHITE (nodding).

A new queen who arrives today!

TILLIE

Today? Let's plan a celebration.

PRIMROSE

I know what! We'll go and pick some flowers for her and that'll make her feel welcome.

ALL

What a good idea!

SNOW WHITE

We'll have to hurry. We don't have much time.

(TIME enters DR.)

TIME

How much time do you need?

(She moves one of the hands on her clock face back and waves them off. They all exit in a flurry of excitement, with TILLIE inching her way along as fast as possible. TIME bends over so that the sand in the hourglass on her head empties to the other side.)

(The PRINCE enters R, sees TIME bent over, approaches her and bends over to speak to her.)

PRINCE

I beg your pardon, but I'm Prince Good-Hearted.

TIME

That's all right. We've heard about you.

PRINCE

I'm new around here and I can't seem to find my way home.

TIME (pointing off L).

Yours is the second castle to the left on the other side of the bridge.

PRINCE

Thank you. (Walking L, speaking out front.) I hate to see Time being wasted.

(He exits L.)

TIME (still bent over).

He's a nice boy, if you like them tall and handsome. (She taps her hourglass and stands up.) Well, Time's up! The queen is coming now, preceded by her loyal servant Maid Dim Witty.

(TIME exits L as MAID DIM WITTY comes dragging on stage R, loaded down with baggage, some in each hand, one suitcase under each arm, and two bags connected by a rope hung around her neck, while she pushes one suitcase along ahead of her with her foot.)

DIM WITTY (speaking over her shoulder).

I'm as loyal a servant as you shall see, but this is really carrying devotion a little too far. (She stops and looks around.) Whew! We're almost at the castle. I never thought I'd still be standing.

(At that point she collapses like a rag doll.)

(The QUEEN enters from stage R.)

QUEEN

Up, up! Get up, you lazy thing! (Out front.) They just don't make servants the way they used to.

(MAID DIM WITTY tries to get up several times and keeps collapsing back down, with the bags getting up-set and in the way.)

DIM WITTY

I'm sorry, my Queen, I just need a few minutes to regain my strength.

QUEEN

First the coach broke down and now you.

DIM WITTY

I still don't understand why we didn't make the trip on your broom.

QUEEN (looking around).

Shh! Those days are gone forever. (Drawing herself up as straight as possible.) I'm a respectable married woman now.

DIM WITTY

But we did have fun, didn't we? It was a pleasure watching you in action.

QUEEN (with a wicked gleam in her eye).

I always did have a few good tricks up my sleeve. (She waves her hands around in the air and then points them at DIM WITTY, who jumps up as though she had sat on a tack.) I threw that in for old times' sake.

DIM WITTY (with admiration).

What an artist!

QUEEN (Sluffing it off with a wave of her hand).

It was nothing. But before we go any further, hand me my mirror.

DIM WITTY

Yes, my Queen.

(She opens a bag, takes out a hand mirror and gives it to the QUEEN.)

QUEEN (preening herself in the mirror).

Mirror, mirror, in my hand,
who is the fairest in the land?

VOICE OF MIRROR (read from offstage; in a bored voice).

You, O Queen, are the fairest I see,
Now put me back and let me be.

QUEEN (kissing mirror).

Oh, I love you, you marvelous creature, you!
(She hands mirror to DIM WITTY, who puts it away.) Well, I guess I'm ready to make my grand entrance now.

DIM WITTY

Yes, Queen Bella.

(DIM WITTY hurriedly circles the QUEEN and adjusts her dress. As she does, SNOW WHITE and her friends return DL carrying flowers, in time to hear the name "Queen Bella." They rush to her, with TILLIE lagging behind.)

TILLIE

Wait for me!

OTHERS

We're waiting
(BUNNY and BONNIE get on either side of TILLIE and help her along, half lifting her off the ground.)

SNOW WHITE (handing her flowers to the QUEEN).
Queen Bella, we're so happy to see you.

PRIMROSE

Welcome.
(She hands her flowers to the QUEEN.)

QUEEN (trying to give them back).

Take these terrible things away. (Starting to sneeze.) I have hay fever. (She sneezes again. BUNNY and BONNIE try to give her their flowers. QUEEN turns her head away, rejecting the flowers. Sneezing.) I hate flowers. (Sneeze.) Get away from me! If there's anything I dislike more than flowers, it's animals! (Sneeze.) And -- (Looking at SNOW WHITE.) -- Children are the worst of all! (Sneeze.)
(SNOW WHITE and the animals are huddled together.)

SNOW WHITE

I'm suddenly afraid.

(The KING enters, followed by his servant girl, SCULLY.)

KING

Ah, my dear wife, you have arrived. (He extends his arms for an embrace, the QUEEN extends hers to receive it, but the KING goes past her and up to DIM WITTY.) Wife, you've changed.

QUEEN (annoyed).

Husband, I'm over here.

KING (turning around to face her).

What? What's that? (He looks at DIM WITTY, then back at the QUEEN.) Oh, but of course. I'd know you anywhere. (He kisses her cheek.) Welcome to my humble castle.

QUEEN

My dear. (Out front:) Idiot!

KING (seeing SNOW WHITE).

Ah, I see you've already met my daughter . . .
ah . . . White Snow.

SNOW WHITE

Snow White, Father.

KING

Oh, yes, that's what I said . . . Snow . . .
ah . . . White.

QUEEN

Your . . . your daughter? (Laughing nervously.)
I should have realized that this lovely child was
the princess. (She moves to SNOW WHITE,
putting her arm around her in an awkward man-
ner.) My sweet.

SNOW WHITE (still afraid of her).

Queen Bella . . .

QUEEN

Call me -- (Through clenched teeth.) -- "Mother."

KING

I knew you two would love each other. And now,
dear wife, come with me and see your new castle.
I always say a man's castle is his home. (He ex-
tends his arm to the QUEEN and as they start off
UR, he turns to SCULLY.) Scully, help with the
baggage.

QUEEN (to SNOW WHITE).

I'll see you later, dear, and we'll have a heart-
to-heart talk.

(The KING and QUEEN go out together.)

BUNNY (to BONNIE).

A heart-to-heart talk? Don't you think she'll be
operating under a handicap?