

Snow White & The Seven Grumpy Old Men

Cast List:

Snow White	Vicky <i>very beautiful, kind but also feisty/sassy?</i>
(Daily) Mirror	Val <i>French/seductive</i>
The Evil Queen (& Crone)	Stella <i>beautiful, sinister, aloof – The Black Witch, always referred to as Her Majesty or Your Highness</i>
Topp	David M <i>court jester, twin of Bottom, falls in love with SW</i>
Bottom	Becky <i>court jester, twin of Topp falls in love with Dame (by accident), pronounces name Bottome (as Hyacinth Bucket/Bouquet)</i>
Prince Rupert	Emma <i>promised to SW as a baby, son of neighbour, reluctant until sees SW</i>
Eric	Mike T <i>Queen's son, pampered & mothered, wants to prove himself manly (takes on huntsman job)</i>
Albert	Jacquie <i>Court Chamberlain fussy, elderly and always anxious</i>
Dame Goodness-Me	Dennis <i>Royal Housekeeper and SW's protector</i>
Crowd	Philippa, Polly, Tom, Michael <i>for town & ball scenes (up to 6?)</i>
7 Grumpy Old Men	Mike K, John, Andy, Dirk, Mhari, David S, Mark <i>laid off film extras (from Lord of the Rings) & now working in a disused mine in Sherwood Forest. Theme music – Madness (inc. silly walk ...)</i>
Lady Penelope & Parker	Janice & Tony <i>Fairy Godmother role/Thunderbirds</i>
Wolf	Caroline <i>set up as evil/sinister – turns good in the end ...</i>
Woodland Creatures	Children of the cast ...
Daz White & Whiter than White	Jo White & Amy Frost
Piano/Music	Cathy, Liz <i>Hinge & Brackett routine</i>
Choreography	Janice
Behind the Scenes	Bob & Mary-Anne
	Lynn, Kirsty, Caroline S

ACT 1

Scene 1 - Curtain opens on the town scene

Children perform a song of welcome Pink: Get this Party Started

They exit stage right as the dwarves enter from the direction of the toilets:

Dwarves enter in a line singing 'Hi Ho' in the traditional way carrying picks and shovels etc. Front dwarf gets to far side of stage, looks at audience in horror and stops dead in his tracks. All dwarves bang into the one in front in the usual panto slapstick way.

- 1 – Grumpy Grumpy (GG) – Michael
- 2 – Grumpy Happy (GH) – Andy
- 3 – Grumpy Dopey (GDop) – Dirk
- 4 – Grumpy Sneezy (GSnee) - Dave
- 5 – Grumpy Doc (GDoc) - John
- 6 – Grumpy Bashful (GB) – Mhairi
- 7 – Grumpy Sleepy (GSlee)- Mark

Dwarves need to begin to establish their different characters with the audience at this stage – perhaps a definitive gesture or expression (ie. Dopey scratches his head in a bemused fashion etc.) to be used at appropriate moments!

- Grumpy Pull yourself together you lot.
Grumpy (GG)
Grumpy Doc What? That was your fault.
(GDoc)
Grumpy Dopey Yeah, you stopped suddenly without any warning
(GDop)
Other Grumpies Yeah, we all saw you.
- GG And do any of you have any idea why I stopped?
- Other Grumpies No?
- GG That lot (*pointing to audience*). All other dwarves look at audience with surprise and horror.
- GH Who are they? (*in role as Happy, he looks as if he wants to make friends, advances to shake hands but something about audience seems to make him change his mind – ie. prep. for his statement later*) Perhaps plant someone in the audience to reject his advances?
- GD And why are they here? (*scratching his head & looking confused*)

Grumpy Sneezy They might be spies for the queen!!!!
(GS)

Grumpy Slee Ooooh noooo! – Quick, let's hide before they see us.
(GSlee)

All dwarves start running around trying to hide behind their picks and shovels (and anything else that's around that obviously won't hide them).

Grumpy I think they can still see us
Bashful (GB)

Grumpy Doc It's no good – we'll have to talk to them and ask them who they are and
(GDoc) why they're here.

GH After you, they don't look too friendly to me (looking worriedly at the hand he had proffered for shaking earlier)

GBash I'm not asking them, you ask (*pointing at 3 – GDop*)

GDop Who are you? (*then quickly follows with*) ... they're not answering, quick let's run.

GSnee Well, give them a chance to answer.

GDoc They look like that group who came here last year for Aladdin

GB Yeah that's right, I recognise him/her (*pointing to a usual suspect*) but he/she never pays for his/her own ticket you know

GDop That's it! – It must be another panto

GG Is that right boys and girls? Are you here to see a panto?

GH Which panto are they doing this year then? (*audience shout Snow White*)

GDop Snow White? Is that the one with the dwarves in? Seven of them?

GSnee (*counting himself and the others*) 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 – that's why we're here then!

GHap Yes, and we've all been very rude. We haven't even introduced ourselves yet.

GBash

GG OK. Well, we're not dwarves, we're Grumpy Old Men. I'll go first. I'm Grumpy Grumpy, and I'm Grumpy because I've been stereotyped!
(GSleepy begins to wake up and follows the conversation sleepily)

- GH And I'm Happy! ... with a bit of grumpiness
- GDop Hello boys and girls. I'm Grumpy Dopey and I'm grumpy, well, because I'm dopey.
- GSnee (*sneezes into hankie*) you know who I am and why I'm grumpy – I've always got a cold.
- GDoc I'm Grumpy Doc and my diagnosis is that I'm grumpy because the only patient I ever see is him with his constant sneezing, snuffling and damp hankies
- GB (*being bashful*) I'm, well, I'm, I'm Grumpy Bashful and I'm too shy to tell you why I'm grumpy.
- GDoc (*pointing at GSl – who is snoring*) and he's asleep and if you wake him up, well, he'll be sooooo grumpy.

All dwarves look at audience with grumpy expressions

- GDoc OK, now that's sorted, I suppose this lot want to see the rest of the show.

All dwarves are now totally in grumpy character.

- GG Well don't get too excited
- GH It's not very good
- GDop What's not very good?
- GB (*loud whisper*) It never is with this lot
- GDop What lot?
- GSnee Before we go, have any of you lot (*sneezes*) got a mobile phone?
- GDoc If you have, switch it off now
GHap Especially if it's got a stooooopid ring tone
- GDop Yeah, we 'ate mobile phones
- GG In fact, it's a tradition in these parts that you'll get an arrow in a very painful place if we hear a mobile phone
G Sneezy's phone is heard to go off as he sleeps – an arrow is shot from the wings and he is startled awake. GG grabs the arrow brandishes it at

the audience and says:
BE WARNED!
GDoc And don't any of you think of smoking

GH Yeah, we 'ate smoking too

GDoc Right you lot, you've had your instructions, - no mobiles and no smoking, you know it's bad for your health. So we'll be off to work now

GG Something that you lot look like you haven't done in a long time

GSnee (sneezes) Yeah, he's never done a decent days work in his life.

All dwarves exit to the Hi Ho theme tune complete with silly walk

Two of the Woodland Creatures bring on a huge story book and leaf through the pictures as an ethereal voice (later revealed as the Mirror's) off-stage narrates the background story (lights go down to put the town scenery in shadow)

The book shows:

Page 1: SW's mother seated and sewing.

Page 2: SW's father stands beside his wife, she shows him her finger (as narrator explains the naming of SW)

Page 3: father grieving

Page 4: Evil Queen enters, is seen to cast a spell on him. He bows to her and (on his knees) places a ring on her finger.

Page 5: In triumph she casts him off and he is seen to fall dead on the ground.

Recorded voice (echo/ethereal?) (narration for story book sequence)

PAGE 1 - Once upon a time in the middle of winter, when the flakes of snow were falling like feathers from the sky, a queen sat sewing at a window and the frame of the window was made of black ebony.

PAGE 2 - And whilst she was sewing and looking out of the window at the snow, she pricked her finger with the needle and three drops of blood fell upon the snow. And the red looked pretty upon the snow, and she thought to herself, "would that I had a child with skin as white as snow, with lips as red as blood and hair as black as ebony."

PAGE 3 - Soon after that she had a little daughter whose skin was as white as snow, whose lips were as red as blood and whose hair was as black as ebony; and so she was called Little Snow White. But when the child was born, sadly, the Queen died.

PAGE 4 - As the years passed in grieving for his lost Queen the king suddenly found himself under the evil spell of the Black Witch and he took her as his wife;

PAGE 5 - She was a beautiful woman, but proud and haughty and she could not bear that anyone else should surpass her in beauty. Once the Evil Queen has gained power over the Good King's domain, she casts him off and he is never seen again.

Lights dim to red/green.

Theme from Mars

Evil Queen enters stage right arms and cloak outspread – holds this pose (dramatic music)

Queen: Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid

and exits (silently) with a flourish.

Close curtains.

Scene 2

Mirror: Mon Dieu!! What DO you think of that?! I don't think we will forget HER in a hurry! In fact, I definitely need to be warned when she appears. Do you think you can help me? (*audience respond*) Excellent. Whenever you see that Evil Queen - boo and hiss as loud as you can! Let's give it a go – pretend she is here, now let me hear you Very good, but I am sure you can do better, try it again Oh, Magnifique!

Now then, you are a very lively bunch this evening/afternoon are you not? (*audience response*) good. I am sure we will get on splendidly.

Do you know, I am supposed to just sit here because I am a mirror – just a piece of furniture! (*Mirror makes a big play of being fixed to the spot*) But, I can't do it and I'M NOT GOING TO! It is too cramped behind here and so I am coming out. (*lots of creaking and pained stretching*) That's better.

Anyway, on with the story! Let me introduce myself – my name's Daily, do you get it? Daily – and I'm a mirror? Daily Mirror! They call me that because I give them all the news. Thing is, my news is a bit different, because my news is **always** the truth! I'm magic!! (*looks modest and bashful*) in more ways than one ...

Returns to table and picks up her glasses – What do you think of these? They're my Lurv Specs! Talk about magic! If anyone (not as magic as me ...) puts them on they will fall in love with the first person they see! Not forever of course - once the glasses are safely back in their case they will be ok! Oh, except for that thing about true love's first kiss – can't be too difficult, though, can it? (*Mirror puts the glasses case in his pocket and swings the glasses in his hand*) Bit of a problem though, I've got no idea where the key to the case is ...

Mirror is interrupted by the lights going up – she is startled by the town scene and while watching the crowd entering she absent-mindedly puts the glasses down on the piano then moves backstage to watch from a corner outside the Antiques Shop door.

Scene 3

Lights reveal a town scene, Antiques Shop in back right of the scene (Mirror leans next to the door). Sherwood Forest can be seen in the background. Crowd members come in singing and dancing a happy song (Happy, Happy Talk) but looking rather unhappy about it! At the end of the song they move into a group (stage left) muttering unhappily together and Albert enters stage right looking very anxious.

- Albert:* Ssshhh – what's all this noise? You'll disturb HER!
- Crowd:* (rather mockingly) Good morning, Lord Chamberlain
- Albert:* (wincing) Not so loud! If you wake HER up, we'll all be in trouble (glancing worriedly over his shoulder)
- Crowd 1:* I don't see why, we're only following HER orders anyway. HER orders are quite clear! We have to celebrate from dawn until dusk or suffer the consequences – the messenger said so!
- Albert:* Oh dear, I don't know what's got into her lately, she's acting even more strangely than usual.
- Crowd 2:* (trying to cheer him up) Hey, Albert – what do you call a nervous witch?
- Albert:* (shocked, looking over his shoulder) You can't tell witch jokes round here!
- (intrigued)* What do you call a nervous witch?
- Crowd 2:* A TWITCH! (all laugh)
Hey, look, don't worry about it all! At least she'll be happy today – it is her birthday after all. Once all the guests arrive and the party begins, she'll ...
- Albert:* Party? What party?
- Crowd 2:* Why, HER birthday party, of course!
- Albert:* Birthday party? No, there's some mistake it isn't her birthday for ages – it isn't her birthday until, ooh! When is it? ... until Friday, the er, the er, thirteenth!
- Crowd:* (all together) that's right – not until ... TODAY!
- Albert:* Today? Today? Oh no! I haven't got her a card or a present or anything! She'll be furious!!
- Crowd 1:* No she won't – you've still got time. Pop into the Antiques Shop over there and find her something unusual. You know how she enjoys curiosities – (sourly) especially expensive ones!
- Enter Dame* (bustles in, with shopping basket – looking busy), she picks up the lurv glasses as she walks in, studies them, goes to put them on but suddenly spots the audience and then puts them back down.
- Dame:* Hello! I'd forgotten we'd got visitors in tonight, we like a few visitors now and then – you feel ever so daft up here if nobody's watching! Do you know we had a group from Weight Watchers in the other night; I do like to see a big woman laughing – so much of her has a good time! Mind you, I did feel sorry for one of them. She went to the 'Speak your Weight' machine and it shouted out '5 stone 10' when her shadow fell across it ...

Anyway, let me introduce myself – my name's Dame Goodness-Me and I'm the Royal Housekeeper and widow of this parish. I do lots of good works, visiting the poor and the sick, that kind of thing. There's one feller who thinks he's a pair of curtains – I told him to pull himself together! Then there was the little boy who'd eaten 5 red snooker balls, 4 browns, 3 yellows, a pink, two blacks and a blue – I told him he wasn't getting enough greens! And what about the girl who wanted help getting rid of her spots? Well, I couldn't make any rash promises could I?

Well, like I said, I'm the Royal Housekeeper. 57 years I've worked in that palace – and if I'm not careful I'll still be there when I'm 30! Mind you, as long as I've got Snow White to look after I don't care. She's the sweetest, prettiest girl you could ever wish to meet. Only don't let that evil stepmother of hers hear you saying that – she's a bit on the jealous side and a lot on the powerful side!

Albert comes out of the Antiques Shop, looks the Mirror up and down; then the Mirror looks Albert up and down, their eyes meet; Albert looks surprised – mirror & Albert copying each other routine – Albert shakes his head (baffled) and then drags the Mirror front of stage bumping into the Dame. Shopkeeper stands in the shop doorway rubbing her hands as if a good job's been done and then withdraws.

Dame: Ooooh, I say! Oh, it's you Albert, what have you got there?

Albert: It's a birthday present for HER (*Mirror stands to attention and looks shocked*). It's an antique mirror, – I do hope she likes it! (*Mirror looks offended, hands on hips*) It's very old, of course, and there's all this mysterious writing round the frame. (*Albert and the Dame study the frame closely, Albert struggling to read reaches for the Lurv Specs but decides against them – The Mirror looks embarrassed at this close scrutiny*)

Yes, look it says:

“O Gracious Owner, tis my task
To answer questions that you ask.
But heed my warning, ere you try:
I tell the truth and never lie!”

Dame: Blimey!

Albert: I wonder, you know, do you suppose it might be, you know, magic?

Dame: Don't be silly, there are no such things as magic mirrors (*to audience*) - are there boys and girls?

Mirror looks at her scornfully and then signals audience to respond 'yes'

Albert: You see/ You see?

Dame: Well, there's only one way to find out!

Albert: (*doubtfully*) Oh, I'm not sure we should ...

Dame: Of course we should, you can't give a present without making sure it works.
Here, give me a hand! Try giving it a quick rub and a polish first.

Albert uses his sleeve to polish the Mirror who fidgets as if he's being tickled.

Dame: (*looks at Mirror expectantly but he just looks straight back.*) Ah, well, we're obviously not in Aladdin again, this year! (*Off-stage comment/exclamation from Tony/Genie. Dame looks startled.*)

Albert: Perhaps we should try talking to it. (*nervously*) Who's going to ask it a question?

Dame: Well, seeing as you're the one who bought it, it's only fair I should have the first go!

Mirror, Mirror, tell me true,
Do I look my age of – 32?

Mirror makes a big play of looking shocked and then peering into her face.

Mirror: Oh Mistress,
You do not look the age you give
Though I'm sure you did
When once you were!

The Dame reacts!

Albert: My goodness, it is magic!

Mirror: (*aside to the audience*) and diplomatic!

The Evil Queen enters unseen by the Dame and Albert – audience boo & hiss, the Mirror looks terrified when he sees her & tries to retreat.

Queen: (*sharply*) Magic? Did I hear the word “magic”?

Albert: (*startled and bowing awkwardly*) Your Majesty! (*The Dame curtsies repeatedly behind him*)

Queen: Well? What about magic?

Albert: It's your birthday present, oh Gracious Majesty – a magic mirror! (*pushing the reluctant mirror forward who finally looks resigned to his fate*)

The Queen studies the Mirror closely and reads the inscription under her breath with increasing scepticism.

Albert: It answers any question you ask it, your Majesty!

Queen: You insult me, idiot, with such a pathetic piece of trash! (*Mirror looks offended, Dame and Albert terrified*)

Albert (*pleading*) Please, your Majesty – just try it and see!

Dame: (*helpfully but from behind Albert*) It can't hurt, can it Madam?

The Queen glowers and then:

Queen: Oh, very well then. But if this is your pathetic idea of a joke I'll have you both exterminated.

Mirror, Mirror, close at hand,
Who is the fairest in this land?

The Mirror: Oh Mighty Queen, my word is true
There is none so beautiful – as YOU!

Queen: It's true, I am the most beautiful! It works!

The Mirror: (*coughing politely as if he's been interrupted*)

Yet, very soon, a rival will come
To claim your title bright
Her beauty fair and fresh
The young princess, Snow White.

Queen: More beautiful than me? Impossible!! You lie! You lie!

Mirror: Each passing hour her beauty grows
 Whilst each and every day
 Your beauty fades, and like the dew
 Fades silently away

Queen: That's enough! Be quiet or I'll smash you into a thousand pieces!

Dame: (to audience) ooh er ...

Albert: (trying to calm the Queen) Take no notice, Your Majesty, everyone knows you're just as pretty as a picture!

Dame: (to audience) Yes, and most of them would like to hang her too!

Queen: (moves from to off stage and talks to herself) I won't allow this, without my beauty I am nothing. I must question this mirror more carefully ... but away from these flapping ears (she gives a harsh laugh and turns to the others) A toy! It's nothing but a harmless toy but it amuses me. Albert, take it to my chambers and (threatening both Albert & the Dame) if either of you breathe a word about this mirror to a living soul I will feed your tongues to the crows and pickle your eyes in vinegar!

(Albert, the Dame and the Mirror scurry off stage leaving the Queen talking to herself)
 So that mewling, pathetic little urchin of a stepdaughter will become more beautiful than me, will she? We'll see about that! (Laughs harshly and sweeps off stage.)

Topp and Bottom enter from the opposite side, asking each other Mastermind Questions:

Bottom: (Doing the crossword) Topp, I'm stuck on the last word in the crossword. The clue is "found at the bottom of a bird cage" - four letters, and ending in "it".

Topp: Er, let me think, GRIT

Bottom: Oh! Have you got a rubber

Topp: You stupid boy

Bottom: (Thinking aloud) Is there a TV program called "I'm in Panto get me out of here?"

Topp: No, it's the same as last year, the only way out of this is to win "Who wants to be a Millionaire" ... so we have to brush up on our general knowledge.... Now let's give it a go

Topp: (To Bottom) .. Where is Hadrian's Wall?

Bottom: At the bottom of Hadrian's Garden.

Topp: Who was the first woman on earth ?

Bottom: That's a hard one - can you give me a clue?

Topp: Let me think .. apple

Bottom: Oh yes ... I've got it ... "Granny Smith!"

Topp: No wonder you were bottom at Hogwarts School for Jesters. (Spots the audience) Here Bottom, who are this lot? They look like they are in a reality TV programme.

Bottom: Big Brother?

Topp: Yes, what do you want little Brother?

Bottom: What's a reality TV programme?

Topp: It's like living in Hickling but without the cow muck!!!!
Topp: Let me introduce us ... We are the court Jesters, this is our very first job since graduating
Bottom: (aside) expelled...
Topp: from Bogwarts school for Jesters. I came first in the finals and Double-doors the head Jester, named me Topp ... He came last and Double-doors therefore named him Bottom.
Bottom: How many times do I have to tell you - my name is NOT Bottom it is Bottome - Bottome – it's more refined ..
Topp: Oooo !! Who's upset him? -- (to audience) I'm sorry, this is Bottome, who came bottome of the class. He is, of course, my twin brother; you can see the family resemblance - tall, dark, handsome and sophisticated, but in his case small, squat and simple.
Bottom: Where is everyone? It's very quiet around here - (pause)
Topp: Oh Topp! I've just remembered, it's the Queen's birthday today, and everyone is there enjoying the festivities. Oh, my gosh, we have to perform for her later and if she does not like our act, then it will be the final curtain for us.
Bottom: Oh dear, what shall we do.
Topp: Perhaps we should try our routine out on these good people.
Bottom Good idea. I'll prepare myself
Topp: (To audience) Cheer if you think we are great, and cheer if you think we are rubbish ..
Topp and Bottom - routine preparation...
Topp: I say I say I say .. what is the difference between Roast Beef and Pea Soup
Bottom: You can Roast Beef, but you can't pea soup.
Bottom: What do you get if you cross a cowboy with a goat ?
Topp: Billy the Kid !!!
Topp: What bird never builds a nest.
Bottom: A cuckoo....
Topp: Why ?
Bottom: He lives in a clock.
Bottom: I say I say I say, what was the name of the first Spanish streaker ?
Topp: Senor Willy
Bottom: (depending upon reaction) I think its going well
Topp: Yes, let's try out the song and dance routine ...

Jester a song at twilight
When the jokes are bad
We should have been a farmer
Like our dear old dad

On the stage it's lonely
When no-one laughs out loud
Just a little titter
Would make our Mum so proud

Jester joke we need now
To keep our jobs you see
So laugh at us out load now
To make us look funny
To make us look funny

Topp: *(To audience)* .. Well what do you think then? ... please yourself. (ad lib).
In fact, the only person who ever laughs at our jokes is the princess – Snow White;

Daz White and Whiter than White enter carrying advertising placards – they smile and jig around in front of the audience but are interrupted by Topp:

Topp: Hold on! Hold on! Hold on!
Who do you think you are?
DW: I'm Daz White (*points at his placard*)
WW: And I'm Whiter than White (*looks angelic*)
Bottom: What are you doing here?
DW: Well, how do you think Snow White stays so white?
WW: We've got a jingle and everything!
DW & WW: Snow White flakes
Snow White flakes
Make your clothes so clean
Snow White Flakes
Snow White flakes
Make your clothes so bright!
Topp: Oh no you don't! Not now! Geroff!!!!

DW & WW look despondently at the audience and walk off gloomily

Topp: As I was saying, before I was so rudely interrupted! ... Snow White! (*looks challenging into the wings in case DW & WW show any signs of returning*)
...have you met her yet? She's really beautiful, you know, big brown eyes, bright rosy cheeks, ruby red lips and hair as black as ebony and she's the kindest girl in the whole world, too – the only ray of sunshine there is around here ...

Snow White enters during the last speech and creeps up behind Topp & Bottom, as Topp finishes speaking she taps them both on the shoulder taking them both by surprise, which turns to shock as they look at her.

Snow White: So how are my favourite friends then?
Bottom: Here, what have you done? What's happened? Your hair, your clothes?
Snow White: Do you like it? (*she twirls round*)
Topp: You can't go climbing trees in that get up you know!

Bottom: Or fishing, or scrumping or anything that's fun!

Snow White: Oh, come on boys – we can still have fun, you know. You have to understand I'm grown up now – it's my birthday today too, remember? There's a whole new world waiting for me. I can't stay in the past forever you know.

Bottom: Actually, you do look lovely, Snow White – doesn't she everyone?

Topp: But what's your stepmother going to say when she sees you, she'll be furious!

Snow White: *(laughing)* No she won't, she hardly knows I exist.

Topp: Oh, she knows alright, the only reason she avoids you is because she's so jealous of you!

Snow White: Jealous? That's ridiculous!

Topp: No it's not, she's jealous because you're so pretty!

Snow White looks confused and embarrassed, Bottom (who has been twiddling with the Lurv Specs, and nearly tries them on a couple of times and so hasn't really been listening suddenly says):

Bottom: What do you mean it's your birthday too?

Snow White: *(relieved at the change of subject)* Oh, everyone always forgets, I suppose I should be used to it by now but it isn't easy sharing a birthday with your stepmother – especially when she doesn't seem to want to share!

Topp and Bottom listen with sympathy and gesture the audience to say ‘aaaah’ as she finishes. The Dame enters behind them all:

Dame: So it is, so it is – and not a moment to spare with all the preparations for the party tonight!

Bottom: Well, the least we can do is sing Happy Birthday, don't you think?

Topp: Definitely, but not the same one we sing for HER. I know a new one, shall we teach it to everyone?

Audience participation - teach the following to the tune of 'We Wish You a Happy Christmas'

Topp improvises around birthday kisses as a tradition – interaction with audience ...

Snow White: Oh thank you, everyone, you've cheered me up no end!

Snow White and the Dame move to one side and talk quietly together maybe discussing the new clothes and hair style etc. Meanwhile Topp has become tired of Bottom fiddling with the lurv specs and takes them away from him. As he looks at them and then tries them on, Snow White turns to look at him and their eyes meet – she smiles at him and turns back to the Dame. Astonished and clutching his heart Topp takes the specs off and turns to the audience:

Topp: Ohhhh! What happened? Did you see the way she looked at me? Ohhh! I'm in love ... (*he drops to his knees and stares besottedly at Snow White*)

Bottom: Topp? Topp? What are you doing?

Topp: I looked ... I I I saw ... I I mean ... and now, and now – I'm in love!

Bottom: (*taking the glasses from him and turning them over and over he finally puts them on and looks across at the two ladies – the Dame turns and smiles at him, their eyes meet and she turns back to Snow White. Taking off the specs and putting them down, Bottome clutches his heart and stares besottedly at the Dame*) Oooooooh! She's gorgeous!

Topp and Bottom proceed to talk at cross purposes:

Topp: You're telling me, have you ever seen such a beautiful girl?

Bottom: Oh, she's no girl, look at her, she's all woman!

Topp: Oh delicate perfection!

Bottom: Oh woman of my dreams!

Snow White and the Dame turn and wave to Topp and Bottom, then the audience and slowly exit, still chatting and smiling. Topp and Bottom look at each other and then suddenly register what they have each been saying:

Topp: What do you mean 'all woman' and 'woman of my dreams'?!

Bottom: What do you mean 'delicate perfection'?!

Topp: Look here! I saw her first, I fell in love with her first – Snow White is mine!!!

Bottom: Snow White? Snow White? Ah, well, she's great, I mean, you know, a good friend, but well – Dame Goodness-Me, I mean goodness me!! Now, she's a woman to love!

Topp: (*puzzled and then laughing*) You love the Dame? Seriously? (*laughs*) But it's Snow White I love!

Bottom: Snow White? I thought ... Oh, my brain's beginning to ache!

Topp: (*twiddling the lurv specs in his hand he suddenly seems to have an idea, looks at his brother, the specs and back again*) Bottom? Did you put these specs on? You don't suppose there's anything ...? (*Both study the glasses and find an inscription written in tiny writing inside the frames*) Look there's something written here.

Bottom: (*squinting*) the writing's too small I can't read it (*goes to put the specs on to help him see better but Topp grabs his hand and stops him*)

Topp: Don't do that! I think these things are dangerous! Magic or something!

They both squint closely, trying to read the inscription

Topp & Bottom: (*read inscription*)

Bottom: Made in Taiwan?

Topp: Don't be stupid, read the inscription!

A scroll drops down from the top of the specs with a long inscription!

Together:

**Beware to all who look through me
For you will love the first you see
Until you find true love's first kiss
And then this spell you will dismiss**

**But first I must be put inside
My magic case is where I'll hide
It needs the key to open it
And then the spell will really quit!**

Topp: This is ridiculous! A magic trick?! If we put the glasses on we fall in love with the first person we see?! Well, there's nothing silly about falling in love with Snow White – it can't be true.

Bottom: And there's nothing wrong with falling in love with Dame Goodness-Me either!

Topp: (*looking quizzically at Bottom*) Ah, I see! Yes, it must be a magic trick. OK, well it can't be too hard to sort out. Where did you find these in the first place?

Bottom: I just picked them up, over there I think.

Topp: Good, let's just pop them back in their case and then all we've got to do is find love's first kiss – can't be hard!

Topp & Bottom search the stage carefully but without any luck (insert some slapstick? Walking backwards and bumping in to each other? Members of crowd wander in and out, skirts lifted to search under them etc. ?) Background music to liven up the search. Finally, they shrug their shoulders and leave the stage.

Enter Prince Rupert.

Prince: Oh dear! Another boring town, another boring palace and another boring party for another boring relative. There must be more to being a prince than this! Ah, well, I'd better get on with it – sooner we start, sooner I can make my excuses and go home.

Snow White enters, carrying a shopping basket and clearly in a hurry.

Prince: Excuse me!

Snow White turns to him.

Prince: Excuse me! I'm looking for the Royal Palace and I – I (*he stops and gazes at her, lost for words*)

Snow White: (*amused*) Yes?

Prince: (*recovering*) ... was wondering if you could give me directions

Snow White: (*laughing*) It's easy to see you're a stranger in these parts, everyone knows where the palace is! Anyway, don't worry – I'll help you; in fact, I can take you there myself.

Prince: You will? (*delighted*) Then allow me to introduce myself. My name is Prince Rupert – eldest son of your neighbours, you know, the one's in that direction!

(bowing deeply and gazing up at Snow White) I am forever at your service, Madam.

Snow White: Oh goodness! Prince Rupert, you're very early – the party doesn't begin for hours!

Prince: *(embarrassed)* Ah, well, I wasn't really planning to stay – I just wanted to deliver this present from my father and leave as soon as possible ... *(He shows her the present)* It's supposed to be for the Queen, but ... well ... I'm sure he must have meant it for you.

Snow White: *(reading the label)* "For the most beautiful lady in the whole kingdom"

Prince: You see, it describes you perfectly.

Snow White: *(laughing)* But I'm not beautiful!

Prince: But you are! The most beautiful girl I've ever seen.

Snow White: Then it's clear you haven't seen the Queen herself yet. Once you've seen her, you won't give me a second thought.

Prince: No! I'm sure you're wrong. And to prove it I shall dance with no-one but you at the party tonight. *(Anxiously)* You are going to be there, aren't you?

Snow White: I'm sorry. But my stepmother prefers me to keep out of sight when the palace has visitors.

Prince: Does she indeed?! Well, don't worry about her, I shall ask the Queen myself and then she'll have to let you come.

Snow White: *(shaking her head)* You don't understand. The Queen is my stepmother!

Prince: *(startled)* Oh!

Snow White: I'm Snow White, Princess Snow White! Look, I'm sorry, but I've got to get back, there's so much to do in the kitchen before tonight ...

Prince: In the kitchen? A royal princess, helping in the kitchen?

Snow White: Oh, it's alright. I enjoy doing it and thanks to Dame Goodness-Me, I can cook almost anything now!

Prince: But you shouldn't be hidden away in a kitchen on a lovely day like this. Today's a day for enjoying yourself. Why not show me around instead?

Snow White: I wish I could ... but there's such a lot to do, and my stepmother would be so cross ...

Prince: Are you sure you can't be persuaded?

Snow White shrugs her shoulders regretfully and withdraws reluctantly leaving the prince behind.

Prince sings: 'She' Charles Aznavour

Scene 4

Scene set front of curtain.

The Mirror lounges nonchalantly on top of a table (stage right) with the Dame seated before him using him as a dressing table mirror, clutter of make-up and bottles etc.

Dame: *(looking slightly anxiously over her shoulder)* I do hope that the Queen doesn't notice I've borrowed this old mirror of hers – it's so much more ... *(searching for the right word, Mirror peers at her threateningly)* flattering than any I've used before – and I do want to look my best tonight.

Do you know, I rather think young Topp – or is it Bottom? I can never tell them apart unless they're standing next to each other! Yes, young Bottom *(looks behind her at her at her own bottom and says)* hmmmm, I wish my bottom was a bit younger too mind! *(Mirror nods vigorously)* Anyway, I think that young Bottom might fancy me after the way he looked at me this morning!

(Dame gazes into the mirror examining her face carefully, the Mirror looks very uncomfortable. Dame then addresses the audience) Do you know, I haven't always been the Royal Housekeeper – with a boss like this, *(in a very dignified, defensive tone)* one tends to get sacked every once in a while – and not through any fault of one's own it has to be said ... So, the last time I had a bit of a go at beauty therapy. Now, it was easy for me because I have a lot of personal experience of being beautiful *(Mirror makes suitable gestures of horror and disbelief while she isn't looking)* – unfortunately, I don't think the Blue Circle Cement School of Beauty were anything like as good as they thought they were because they recommended I try a different school 'more suited to my particular needs' – what cheek!

Song – 'Beauty School Drop-Out' – with mirror taking angel role

At the end of the song the scene descends into a slapstick/mess scene with powder and gunge

Enter Topp (stage left) as the song finishes, Dame spots him and, thinking it's Bottom, strikes an alluring pose ...

Topp: Oh dear! You haven't put your back out again have you?

Dame: *(slightly confused and hurt at his reaction)* No, I haven't put my back out – I was giving you one of my famous 'come hither' looks. *(proudly)* The last feller I looked at like that nearly passed out at my feet.

Topp: I'm not surprised. I felt a bit sick myself. Anyway, what are you doing up here? Shouldn't you be in the kitchen getting all the food ready?

Dame: *(smugly)* It is ready. Snow White and that new boyfriend of hers have been helping me.

Topp: *(startled)* What new boyfriend?

Dame: Prince Rupert, of course. (*accusingly, feelings still hurt ...*) Ooohh and he's really good looking y'know!
Topp: I thought I was Snow White's boyfriend!
Dame: (*really offended now*) You? Don't be daft, princesses don't get mixed up with pathetic little court jesters like you and your snobby brother! They want fellers with brains and – and – money and things ...

(*The Dame turns to her make-up table and rummages amongst the bottles etc to hide her emotion. Meanwhile, Bottom enters next to his brother, gazes longingly at the Dame. Topp departs in disgust at the pair of them. When the Dame finally looks up she sees Bottom staring at her besottedly.*)

Bottom: Oh, Dame Goodness-Me!
Dame: (*confused & suspicious*) Yes?
Bottom: I thought my search for a beautiful woman to marry was over!
Dame: (*confused but beginning to look hopeful again*) Marry?
Bottom: But now I find I can't marry you, not after the things I've been hearing.
Dame: Marry me? Can't? (*very confused and then slightly piqued*) What things?
Bottom: Well ... last Friday night, for instance. A strange man grabbed you and started kissing you and you never said a word!
Dame: Of course I didn't! My mother told me not to speak to strange men!
Bottom: And what about the milkman, eh? You let him put his arms round you three times.
Dame: Don't be silly! Nobody's got arms that long! Oh come on Bottome (*long drawn-out, knowing this is how he likes it to be pronounced but also teasingly*) Ask me to marry you! All my life I've wanted to be wooed (*she puckers her lips at him, Mirror continues to gesture etc in the background as a commentary on the action*).
Bottom: (*with an air of injured lover*) Yes ... well, you needn't get wooed with me!
(leaves stage despondently)
Dame: Never mind – just wait until later; I'm sure I'll win him round with my womanly wiles! (*preens and prances her way off stage, Mirror follows her imitating her actions*)

Lights dim. As the lights come up again the Mirror stands centre stage, to attention, listening anxiously as if he can hear someone approaching. Still front of curtain.

The Evil Queen sweeps on stage followed droopily by her son, Eric. The Mirror prompts the audience to boo and hiss. The Mirror looks exhausted.

Queen: Impossible. Absolutely impossible. For hours I've questioned the magic mirror, yet still it insists Snow White will soon be more beautiful than I. Never! Never in a million years! I'll choke her to death with my own fair hands before I allow it to happen (*audience boo and hiss*) Oh, shut up or I'll poison the drinks for the interval.

Queen suddenly adopts an expression of sickly sweetness and draws Eric towards her. The Mirror takes the opportunity to sidle off stage.

Queen: Now, how is my darling little Eric? You're not too cold are you? You're not too excited about your darling Mummy's little birthday party are you?

Eric squirms and looks embarrassed.

Eric: Oh, really, Mother! I'm 25 now! It really is time to let me do my own thing a bit you know?

Queen's face begins to darken and she speaks more pointedly.

Queen: Now, now, my little Eric – don't you go teasing your Mummy with your little games.

Eric: *(whining a little now)* But I'm not allowed any friends of my own and I'm useless at magic, I just can't do it – whatever you try to teach me. My dragon's tooth cordial makes me cold and not hot; my levitation spell leaves me flat on my backside and my invisibility spell made my hair disappear and nothing else! I hate spiders and newts and stuff and I hate this mouldy old castle ... All I want to be is a Thunderbird when I grow up and work for International Rescue. I wish you could be more like Lady Penelope, mother!

Queen: How dare you! And as for Lady P. I'd soon cut her strings!

Eric: But ...

Queen: Be silent!

Eric: But ...

Queen spreads her cloak and looms ominously over Eric's now cowering figure)

Queen: You are my son! My heir! You will succeed – I will find something you can do! No son of mine can be anything but awesome and terrifying! *(lowers her arms and considers him carefully, Eric lowers his eyes and seems to submit)* There's my beautiful boy - your day will come and Mummy will help you ... Now, run along and be sure to sneak very quietly and let Mummy know if you hear anything that may interest her!

Eric departs with a sullen glower on his face. The Queen looks around her to make sure that she is alone and then calls impatiently:

Queen: Chamberlain! Chamberlain!

Albert enters hurriedly and bowing low

Albert: You called, Your Majesty!

Queen: Of course I did, you bumbling fool. Where is that puny little orphan, Snow White? Out in the forest, gathering flowers again, I suppose?

Albert: Oh, no, Your Majesty. Certainly not. The forest isn't safe at the moment. Only this morning, your royal huntsman was attacked by a savage wolf – he may never walk again – majesty!

Queen: A wolf?

Albert: A monstrous creature, with eyes like red hot coals and teeth like daggers. The poor man barely escaped with his life

Queen: And the wolf?

Albert: (very unhappily) Still free, your majesty! The rumour is that it's the same one that's been victimising those poor pigs building their houses in Kinoulton and that poor old lady who lives along the canal – you know the one, she's got a grand daughter who wears a ridiculous little red hat all the time?

Queen: (thoughtfully) Hmmmm. (aside) This could be my chance to get rid of that simpering little fool of a princess! Who else knows of this ravenous wolf, Lord Chamberlain?

Albert: Hardly anyone, Majesty! (then adds quickly, in case she thinks he isn't doing his job properly) But I'm about to send the Town Cryer out to warn them!

Queen: (soothingly) No, no, Albert. There's no need to worry anyone on my birthday, is there? I'm sure it's miles away by now!

Albert: But your Majesty!

Queen: (sharply now) Enough! Tell the princess I want to speak to her and don't forget – not a word about the wolf ...

Albert bows unhappily and bustles off stage.

Queen: At last, the perfect way to get rid of that cursed little nuisance – and not a finger of suspicion to point in my direction! (with mock regret) Poor child. Torn to pieces by a fearsome wolf whilst wandering alone in the forest (she laughs wickedly and then snarls savagely) I'll show that stupid mirror how wrong it can be. No-one shall surpass the magnificence of my beauty!

As she lifts her arms in triumph her shadow appears like a wolf on the curtain behind her. She sweeps through the curtains and they open as she does so.

Front of curtain – Sign drops down saying 'Somewhere In London'. Thunderbirds theme music. Phone on side (on piano?) which rings out. Parker enters and answers phone.

Parker: Lady Penelope's residence. Parker speaking. How may I help you ? Oh, hello Mr Tracy. You have an important job for us, and you want to speak with Lady Penelope.

Enter Lady P

Penny Hello Parker....did you call me. I do hope that it's important! I was just having my new batteries fitted by a very nice man....life is so much better without those ghastly strings getting in the way.

Parker I suppose that means that you are now Ever Ready me lady?

Penny Oh Parker, don't be so silly...now who is it?

Parker Begging your pardon me lady, but its Mr Tracy

Penny Oh goodness....how exciting....do pass me the phone. Hello Jeff, Penny here, how can I be of service to you? Now, now Jeff...don't be naughty this is a family show after all! What's that you say...a crisis...Snow White in mortal danger....the evil queen.....a ferocious wolf....a trap! Oh heavens Jeff, of course, at once, FAB.....Parker, we have an important job to do now, run along and fetch the Rolls. (Parker goes off stage) I do hope he is careful with my brand new pink Rolls Royce....it really is the only way to travel! Now, I must prepare

(Parker exits and returns with a plate of bread rolls)

Parker cough cough...The rolls me lady
Penny Oh don't be so ridiculous Parker, this is not the time for jokes. We must rescue Snow White . Now come along, there's no time to lose.
Parker Yes, me lady
(Both start to exit ...Parker gets in a tangle with his strings and starts to go backwards uncontrollably)
Parker Begging your pardon me lady
Penny Oh dear, what is the problem Parker
Parker I'm all of a tangle me lady
Penny Oh pull the other one
Parker Not the other one me lady
Penny Oh really Parker, well this one then
Parker Oh no ...not that one,
(Penny pulls the string and Parker's trousers fall down revealing saucy pants)
Parker oh me lady
Penny Oh really Parker, what am I to do with you...now come along
Parker Sorry me lady
(Both exit ...Parker struggling with trousers around his ankles)
They will reappear periodically in following scenes, spying on the goings on from FOC – no speech but facial expressions/body language comments ...)

As Lady P & Parker exit DW & WW come running in from the opposite wing (carrying a white bucket) but arrive too late to catch them, they look at the audience and decide to sing anyway:

DW & WW: Snow White flakes
 Snow White flakes
 Make your clothes so clean
 Snow White Flakes
 Snow White flakes
 Make your clothes so bright!

DW: *(looks around to check no-one will stop him and then speaks to the audience)*
 This is a good time to show you how good Snow White flakes are
WW: They make **all** your washing 'whiter than white'!

Topp creeps on stage as if he's going to grab them and pull them off but he's spotted by DW & WW. DW & WW cower behind their little white bucket.

DW & WW: Please let us show you!
Topp: You'd better be quick, show me how clean you can make these! (*magically produces a pair of bright red underpants from under his tabard ...*)

DW & WW look questioningly at each other, shrug their shoulders and put the pants (holding them by a corner and holding their noses) in to the bucket – using a stick they start to stir and also begin to sing but Topp glares at them and they stop

hurriedly. After stirring, the underpants are removed and revealed to be white now instead of red! Topp chases them off stage.

Scene 5

The curtains open to reveal the Palace ballroom. Snow White enters from the back of the stage and curtsies politely to the Queen. As the Queen sees her she is shocked by her changed appearance.

Queen: Your hair. Your clothes!

Snow White: Do you like them? (*she twirls round*)

Queen: (*dazed*) Such beauty, such terrible beauty! (*recovering herself*) Very pretty, my dear, very pretty, but the guests are beginning to arrive so I think it's time to go to your room don't you?

Snow White: (*hopefully*) Couldn't I stay and watch? Just this once? Please? I promise I won't be a nuisance.

Queen: (*laughing brightly*) Perhaps next year, darling – but tomorrow, we have a big adventure ahead of us! I thought we could go into the woods together and perhaps get to know each other a little better. Don't you think that would be nice dear?

Snow White: (*doubtfully*) Yes – I ... suppose so ...

Queen: Then off you go, Sweet Dreams!

Snow White exits reluctantly.

Queen: (*savagely*) The little fool! She'll never leave that forest alive!!! (*she glares at the audience and exits laughing*)

As the Queen leaves the crowd appear (dressed for the Ball) mingling and chatting. Topp and Bottom join them.

Bottom: Hiya everyone! Just look at all this! Everybody dressed in their Sunday Best and champagne flowing like water. You should see some of the royal guests. Cor - they've got some brass. All those posh cars at the front of the castle - there's even a Pink Rolls Royce Mind you it must be for sale, I've just seen a pigeon putting a deposit on it (all laugh)

(*Lady Penelope can be seen FOC looking horrified and calling for Parker*)
Dame enters and Bottom moves bashfully to the back of the stage.

Topp: (*in mock admiration*) Here, I say, that's an unusual frock you're wearing.

Dame: (*flattered*) Do you like it? I had terrible trouble getting it. I mean talk of being helpful but this was ridiculous – I said, “Excuse me, have you got anything long and flowing?” and before I could move a muscle, they'd chucked me in the river!

Topp: (*hiding a laugh*) I think you look delicious! It makes you look like a Charlotte Noisette.

Dame: (very flattered) Do you hear that boys and girls? Like a Charlotte Noisette! (she preens then realises) (aside) Hang on a minute. A Charlotte Noisette's a fruity, old-fashioned tart that's half nuts!!! I'll get them back.

Bottom comes forward to join Topp ... looks lovingly at the Dame ..

Dame (To Topp and Bottom) Well I must say, you two have made an effort for the celebrations, you look really sweet, and you smell just like freshly baked bread. Yes that's it you are just like a couple of sweet breads ...

Bottom: Oh thank you, thank you, oh how nice ... Hey, wait a minute, aren't sweet breads

Topp: Don't go there, this is family entertainment.

Enter the Prince.

Dame: Oooh, I say! It's Prince Rupert. Keep quiet and I'll seduce you to him. Hello, Prinny! This is Bottom (*pointing vaguely at both Topp and Bottom*) – he's my latest fiasco!

Bottom: (offended) Don't you mean fiancée?

Dame: (to Prince) I know what I mean!

Prince: Hello to both of you! I've heard so much about you. It must be wonderful to make people laugh, I wish I could do it.

Topp: Yes, well, with legs like yours, you shouldn't have any problems, should you?

Prince looks surprised but Dame whispers (during these exchanges Bottom keeps sidling up to the Dame and trying to put his arm around her, but she moves away at the last moment each time):

Dame: Just ignore him, sweetie, he's just jealous because Snow White prefers you to him!

Prince: Oh, I hope not! Because when Snow White and I get married I want you to be Best Men and you, Dame Goodness-Me, to be Matron-of-Honour.

Dame: Oooh, I say! I've always wanted to be a Matron-of-Honour. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! (*looks expectantly at Topp and Bottom, Bottom looks confused because he hasn't heard any of the above*)

Topp: And thank you from my bottom too

Bottom: (habitually correcting him) Bottome!

Prince: But where is Snow White? I can't see her anywhere.

Topp: (sulkily) No, and you won't either she's been told to stay in her room.

They are interrupted by a fanfare and Albert enters carrying his rod of office which he bangs ostentatiously on the floor to attract attention.

Albert: Pray silence for Her Glorious Majesty, The Magnificent and Most Beautiful Queen of all these Lands.

Everyone turns to face the Queen as she enters (to 'The Dance of the Capulets' from R&J).

From the back of the group Bottom encourages the audience to boo and hiss. As she sweeps on stage scowling at the audience the cast begin to sing Happy Birthday (traditional tune, dirge-like). Standing behind the Queen is her son, Eric. Eric lingers in the shadows throughout the scene and exits with his mother, lingering a moment or two to watch the dance rather wistfully.

Queen: Greetings. Loyal subjects – and welcome to the Royal Palace ...
Prince: I'm going to sort this out!
Horrified the Dame tries to stop him, but is too slow.
Prince: (bowing low to the Queen) Your Majesty!
Silence as everyone watches in horror.
Queen: (imperiously) And who are you?
Prince: (bowing but with pride) Prince Rupert, son of your greatest friend, ally and neighbour, you know, that way (pointing)!
Queen: Hmm ... now, you've grown up rather nicely haven't you? (*she caresses his cheek*)
Prince: (withdrawing slightly) Your Majesty is kind. I come to beg a favour of you.
Queen: Indeed?
Prince: When first I arrived my only wish was to leave as soon as possible, but since then I have met the most beautiful girl in the world.
Queen: (thinking he means her) Such flattery! (*she smirks at the guests who look embarrassed*)
Prince: Not if you could see her through my eyes, Your Majesty. My only wish is to be able to dance every dance with her tonight.
Queen: Such a simple request. How can I possibly refuse (*extending her hand to begin the dance*)
Prince: Then you have no objection?
Queen: You shall dance to your heart's delight.
The prince signals to the Dame to fetch Snow White, meanwhile the Queen calls for music.
Queen: Musicians, you may begin!
Prince: Oh! But, Snow White hasn't arrived yet!
Queen: (icily) You wish to dance with Snow White?

The Prince turns away from her as Snow White enters. The Queen retreats angrily to the side of the stage glowering. Everyone (except the Queen) spontaneously bursts into Happy Birthday (for Snow White) - new version learnt earlier, Topp and Bottom encourage audience to join in.

Snow White crosses to the Queen.

Snow White: (curtsies) Oh, thank you for letting me come to the ball, Stepmother. (*she kisses her on the cheek and then turns to the Prince*)
Queen: Think nothing of it, my dear ... (*rubs kiss off savagely and continuing under her breath*) Enjoy yourself – it's the last chance you'll ever get.

A stately minuet begins to play and the dancers take up positions, as it begins to get going the music gradually changes into a lively modern dance (à la Knight's Tale) – Adam and the Ants,

Prince Charming. The Queen sweeps off stage in disgust early on (Eric follows her having lingered a moment to watch the dancers wistfully).

Curtains close.

Scene 6

Mirror and Queen (in a fury) enter from opposite sides,

Queen: How dare he insult me *in my own court!* How dare he reject me to dance with that snivelling little brat, Snow White! The boy's a fool. An idiot. Her vapid features are nothing compared to my dazzling beauty. (*admiring herself in a very nervous looking Mirror*) Who else has skin as soft and creamy as mine? Eyes so large and dark? Lips redder than the reddest rose that blooms in the palace garden? No-one! No-one! (*stands and swirls into a commanding pose*) **Mirror, Mirror, on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?**

Mirror pulls a face at the audience and then stands to attention.

Mirror: Thy beauty, mighty Queen, is greater
Than the star-filled night
Yet ten times ten more greater now
Is that of young Snow White

Queen: (*recoiling*) Aaaaaagh. How I hate the sound of that cursèd name. Even in my dreams, I hear it whispered. Snow White. Snow White. Snow White. (*She becomes increasingly hysterical and then pulls herself together*) But calmly, calmly. Why should I worry? By this time tomorrow her bones will be rotting on the forest floor and I, Magnificent Queen, will once again be the most beautiful woman on earth.
Come dazzling sun
And sweep away the night
The deed will very soon be done
And death will claim Snow White

(*She laughs harshly and sweeps off stage, leaving a silhouette of a snarling wolf on the curtain.*)

Mirror: Oh my! Thank goodness she has gone. She is pure evil isn't she? I think this may be a good time to stop and have some refreshments, before SHE starts mixing her potions and casting her spells. We will see you in 20 minutes ... unless SHE gets to you first!!!!

End of ACT 1.

Pianists entertain audience on & off through interval?

ACT 2

Scene 1

Front of curtain. Prince enters looking forlorn and unhappy.

Prince: I've been sent away! Can you believe it? When I came I just wanted to go home, now I have to go home and I just want to stay!!! (*to audience*) You're confused? You should try memorising the lines!

It's just terrible! I had a message this morning saying that my beautiful Snow White doesn't want to see me any more and that if I really love her – I should go!

The Prince strikes a forlorn/pathetic pose and drags himself off stage.

The Queen and Eric enter.

Queen: I can't do it. I can't bear to be in her company a moment more – even if they are her final moments! (*turning to Eric*) Eric? You would like to help your Mummy and show her what a clever little boy you are, wouldn't you?

Eric: (*cringing and pulling away*) Of course, Mother, I have been searching all my life for the opportunity to prove my worthiness!

Queen: I knew you would want to show Mummy how much you love her. Will you really do an itsy bitsy little job for Mummy?

Eric: (*growing impatient*) Of course, Mother!

Queen: (*pulling herself back into her more normal, threatening pose*) Then take Snow White into the Forest. Tell her that you are there to help her carry back her flowers ... But lead her carefully, my son – there is a wolf in the forest. Find it! Feed it! – with Snow White ... But, be warned! Do not leave until you are sure she is quite dead – I want proof!

Eric: (*growing increasingly shocked*) Proof? Proof! How do I get that? I could get killed myself!

Queen: (*growing hysterical at the thought of her triumph*) Do this and prove your worth at long last – or death will seem an easy option ...

Eric on his own – front of curtain

Eric: Oh, no – what am I going to do? How I 'wish' that International Rescue could be here now. If we did the countdown, do you think they would come? Let's try it. 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1. No, it's not working. Let's try it again (*audience participation, etc etc*)

Enter Lady P and Parker

Lady P: Now then, you must be Eric. Why are you looking so upset ?

Eric: (*looking shocked but excited*) Because the Queen's told me I've got to kill Snow White, and feed her to the wicked, hungry wolf. And just the thought of it makes my heart go boom boom.

(cue for short burst of the song 'Goodness Gracious Me' between the 3)

Lady P: Come along, Eric, it's about time you stood up to your mother and behave like a man. Just like.....just like.....Mr Tracy

Parker: Or me, me Lady

Lady P: Oh Parker, don't be silly

Parker: Yes, me lady

Lady P: Now Eric, off you go and remember what I've told you. Now Parker, **do** fetch the Rolls. (*she calls after him*) ... and make sure that it's clean after that dreadful incident with the pigeons at the Ball!

Parker: Yes me lady

(Parker exits and returns with toilet rolls)

Lady P: Oh, really Parker, not again.

Parker: I'm only trying to inject a little humour, me lady

Lady P: Quite

Parker: Now, me lady, walk this way....ooh, and shut that door (*as per Genie mode*).

Scene 2

Curtains open to reveal a forest scene. Snow White (carrying a half full flower basket) and Eric enter.

Snow White: But Eric, I don't know why we had to rush away so early. I was supposed to meet Prince Rupert this morning – I promised!

Eric: Don't be so silly! You can't fall in love with someone that quickly!

Snow White: Oh, but Eric – I think I can!

Eric: (to exaggerate lisping speech impediment) Just imagine Pwince Wupert wicking a wiqurice wowipop – that'll cure you!

Song: The 'Shoop, Shoop Song' (with the Woodland Creatures)

Eric is uncomfortable and awkward; he doesn't reply just grabs the basket from Snow White and walks on, head down. Snow White seems confused but goes along with it. Exit opposite side of stage. As they leave a branch moves/falls revealing a wolf asleep under a tree. He snores loudly, grunts, turns over, snores again.

Snow White and Eric enter again from same direction they exited. Eric is looking around him carefully.

Eric: (muttering) It must be round here somewhere, it has to be! How hard can it be to find a wolf?!

The wolf snores loudly again startling Snow White and Eric. They both scream! The wolf wakes with a start and he screams too! All three stand screaming at each other for several moments. Instinctively, Eric pushes Snow White behind him to protect her, realises what he's done and shouts:

Eric: I can't do it! (aside to audience) What would International Rescue say?
Remember what Lady Penelope said? (shouts again) No! I won't do it!

Snow White and the Wolf who have stopped screaming but her fixed, staring at each other in horror turn and look at him with curiosity

Snow White: Do what?

Wolf: Do what?

Eric: Pardon?

All realise how ridiculous the situation is and relax. Snow White and Eric look at the wolf nervously; the wolf looks at them bashfully and then seems to smile. Wolf opens his mouth, Snow White and Eric take a step back cautiously, still watching him.

Wolf: Do what? Can't do what?

Eric and Snow White look at each other

Snow White: Eric, what can't you do?

Still watching the wolf cautiously Eric says:

Eric: I can't kill Snow White – that's what I can't do.

This time, Snow White and the wolf look shocked and then fix Eric with questioning looks.

Eric: (apologetically to Snow White) It's my mother – she wants you dead. I was supposed to bring you into the forest, find the wolf and make sure he eats you!

The wolf looks horrified and then as if he's going to be sick

Wolf: Typical! Absolutely typical!! That's wolfism, that is! (*spells it out*) W-O-L-F-I-S-M, wolfism! Just because the occasional wolf tops up his diet with a bit of succulent human you think we're all the same! Have you any idea just how horrible you humans taste? All that rubbish you eat? You're bitter and foul tasting – no self-respecting wolf would ever choose to eat human!

Snow White and Eric look astonished. Snow White looks from Eric to Wolf and back again, then decides to take charge.

Snow White: (looking at each in turn) OK. So you (pointing at Eric) want me dead and you (pointing at the Wolf) don't want to kill me?

Eric and the Wolf look at each other, shrug their shoulders and then nod, they look again and shake their heads this time – finally look at Snow White in confusion.

Eric: Mother will be furious if I don't bring back proof that Snow White is dead.

Wolf: (to Snow White) Well, I'm sure you are very nice looking but I'm afraid I'm not going to eat human just because he's (pointing at Eric) in trouble!

Snow White: We've all got a problem then haven't we?

The three of them put their arms round each other and go into a huddle; lots of murmuring and discussion, occasionally quite heated can be heard. Finally, they separate, all looking pleased with themselves.

Snow White: OK. So, this is what we do. Eric, you need to take proof back to the Queen that I'm dead. Meanwhile, I'll keep going and try and find Prince Rupert. He'll know what to do next, I'm sure. And Eric, you'd better not hang around at the palace – as soon as you can, you should try and find Prince Rupert too.

Wolf: What about me?

Eric & SW: Pardon?

Wolf: What about me? Are you just going to leave me here? It's not much fun, you know – as soon as I go near anyone for a chat or to make friends they run away screaming, or set the dogs on me, or send for the soldiers! It's very lonely out here, y'know!

Eric & SW: (bewildered) Oh!

Wolf: You know, if you want your proof you still need to be nice to me! You can hardly expect me to help if you're just going to abandon me!

The three go back into a huddle and re-emerge a moment or two later.

Eric: *(to the wolf)* Would you come with me? Thing is, I've never really had many friends either (*Snow White prompts audience reaction – aaaaah etc.*) – you know, what with a mother like mine and all that!

Wolf: Do you mean it?

Eric: Yes! Yes, I do! We can both start again – I'm sure Prince Rupert will help us and if he doesn't, well, at least we'll have each other!

***Song:* You've got a Friend in Me! (Toy Story) – shortish burst ...**

Eric: *(looking the wolf in the eye)* Now, what about that proof?

Snow White and Eric move either side of the wolf, apparently friendly they are seen to take a firm hold of him – follow with slapstick as they try to get a tooth from the wolf! For example, string around the tooth, animals come on to help, can't do it, pass string into audience for extra help etc.

Snow White: *(to Eric)* Do you think one tooth will be enough?

Wolf looks horrified! Eventually manage to remove one tooth (piece of string trick??). Wolf hugs his mouth while Snow White removes a scarf from round her neck. She looks meaningfully at Eric:

Snow White: Only one more thing needed then! *(Eric looks bewildered)* It won't work without a drop or two of blood will it? *(looks meaningfully at Eric again)*

Eric: Oh, no! You can't ask me to do that ... *(horrified)*

Snow White: *(smiling)* No, perhaps not ... *(she delves into the basket)*

Eric: *(emphasising the lisp)* It needs to be wed, wed! Not wellow, wed!

(Snow White pulls out a handful of red??? and squeezes red juice over the scarf. Eric looks relieved and the Wolf looks rather disappointed)

Eric: *(addressing the audience)* Sorry about this, but I just need to be serious for a moment. *(turns to Snow White)* It's time to go, we'll get these back to the palace as quickly as we can and then go and find Prince Rupert. But, look, this isn't going to be easy – I don't like sending you off on your own but it's the only way. You must take care, if the Queen finds out about this you're going to be in terrible, terrible danger!

Snow White: Please don't worry *(beginning to look nervous now)*, let's just get this over with as quickly as possible and we'll meet safely again soon!

Eric and the Wolf exit reluctantly leaving Snow White alone in the forest. Hostile forest noises & Music from Swan Lake (Tchaikovsky, Act 4, swans attack) gradually get louder and Snow White begins to search her way through the forest. The lights dim and the whole atmosphere becomes sinister and frightening.

The Mirror enters. Snow White, looking lost and frightened rushes past him and the Mirror look after her pityingly. Snow White reappears briefly and the Woodland Creatures are seen to befriend her and lead her away.

Curtains close but music continues. Mirror moves FOC as they close.

Scene 3

Front of Curtain.

Mirror watches Snow White exit.

Mirror: (addressing the audience) I will now answer some questions that I understand the audience want to ask me - but remember, I must always tell the truth.

(improvisation, plus some questions will be planted under seats in the audience for emergency use ...)

The Mirror is interrupted by the Thunderbirds music and Parker intoning off stage (rather bored voice):

Parker: 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1.... Oh, really, M'Lady, is this really necessary?

Lady P: (looking despairingly off stage towards Parker) Well, I think that went rather well, didn't it? I say, he did behave like a man, didn't he? This is all going better than I'd hoped. (Noticing mirror). Well I say, what a beautiful mirror. I haven't seen one like this before.

Mirro:r I know, and I haven't seen anything like you before

Lady P: (shocked) What? A talking mirror? How delightful. Now tell me, if you can talk, what do you think of my attire?

Mirro:r Oh, **so** last year

Lady P: Oh, not again. I must hurry and change out of this. Now, where's Parker? (exits)

(Off stage dialogue)

Lady P: Oh, Parker, take off my shoes

Parker: Yes, me lady

Lady P: And now Parker, take off my jacket

Parker: Yes, me lady

Lady P: And now, Parker, take off my dress

Parker: Yes, me lady

Lady P: And Parker,...(Parker walks on stage wearing Lady P's hat, closely followed by Lady P)

Parker: Yes, me lady

Lady P: Take off my hat, and Parker, don't let me catch you wearing my clothes again.

Parker: Beg your pardon, me lady....

Song: I'm Your Puppet

(Both exit).

Scene 4

*Curtains open to reveal cottage in the forest setting.
Snow White is heard calling from off stage.*

Snow White: Hallo? Is anyone home? I did knock, and the door was open so I ... Oh! What a quaint little place. Who on earth can it belong to? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven – seven bowls, seven chairs and – seven beds. And they're all so small. Of course, it must be children! But, what are they doing here. all alone, in the middle of the forest? Where are they now? Oh, I hope my knocking hasn't frightened them. Perhaps they've run away to hide. (*calling*) It's all right children, I'm not going to hurt you. No answer! Perhaps if I clear everything up, they'll realise I'm not going to harm them – it could certainly do with a good clean! The floor needs sweeping, and the dishes need washing, and a little bit of polishing wouldn't do any harm at all!

Snow White begins cleaning round humming and singing as she works ('Whistle While You Work' – audience join in?). Gradually she slows down and looks increasingly drowsy. She begins to straighten the beds (behind a curtain, which she draws back) and then, yawning, lies down and falls asleep. The lights dim to show passing time. In the distance singing can be heard getting gradually louder. The seven dwarves appear through the forest singing.

GG: (fiercely) Shhhhhhhh
GDoc: What's the matter?
GG: Can't you see?
GDoc: See what?
GG: The room, of course (*they all look around*) It's been cleaned!
Others: (in shock) Cleaned?
GDop: He's right. I've never seen it so clean.
GG: The question is, who did it?
GHap: Well, don't look at me!
GDoc: Or me! I never clean anything! (*sniffs under his armpits & lifts a shoe to sniff it too – looks resigned, other dwarves hold their noses*)
GB: And it certainly wasn't me!
GSnee: Or me
GSlee: Or me
GDoc: Then who was it?
GG: Well grumpy gentlemen, we'd better look around

*All fall in behind D1 and tiptoe around looking until they are back to original positions.
(Theme tune to Pink Panther)*

GG: There's no-one here now! We must have frightened them away. But next time we go out we must remember to lock the door! Now then who's for dinner?
GSnee: I'll light the fire. (*sneezes*)
GG: Don't blow it out with your sneezing before we get to eat ...
GHap: And I'll make the soup.

GDoc: I'll get the indigestion tablets.
GB & GDop: We'll set the table
GSlee: And I'll have a rest until it's ready ...

As the others busy themselves GDop finds Snow White, stifles a cry and hurries back to the others.

GDop: Through there! Through there! There's a monster through there!
GG: A monster? Perhaps it's Jackie Stallone!
GDop: Covered with hair. Big white teeth. Pointed ears. Claws made of iron. Spitting fire and breathing smoke! And – it's sleeping in my bed!
GG: Right men. Everyone find a weapon. We'll show this monster it's chosen the wrong bed!

The dwarves rush around and collect various weapons (feather duster, brush, cucumber etc.). Lots of stumbling, pushing and hesitation they sort themselves into a line behind GG and tiptoe towards the bedroom.

GG: Shhhhh.
Others: (to each other) Shhhhhh.
GG: (lifting his weapon) one, two (seeing Snow White) This isn't a monster. It's a girl.

Others: A girl?
GHap: Well Hello ...
GDop: Well, what's she doing in my bed?
GG: How should I know?
GHap: Aren't you going to wake her?
GDoc: Certainly not. The poor child looks exhausted.
GHap: But she can't stay there all night
GSnee: I bet she can ...
GSlee: So where are we going to sleep?
GBash: There's plenty of room in the barn.
GDoc: With all the hens and pigs? What about the terrible smell?
GG: Oh, I'm sure they won't mind!
GHap: Isn't she beautiful?
GG: (grumpily and voice getting louder) Beauty's all very well but she's no right sleeping in our beds.

GDoc: Keep your voice down
GG: I will not keep my voice down. She's got no right ...

Snow White wakes up, startled.

Snow White: Oh! Who are you?
GG: The owners of this cottage, that's who we are!
Awestruck and very hesitantly:
GHap: I'm Grumpy! Grumpy Happy
GDop: I'm Grumpy! (looking awkwardly at the GH) Grumpy Dopey
GSnee: I'm Grumpy Sneezy
GHap: (Pointing at Sleepy who is dozing against the back wall) He's Sleepy!
GB: (very shyly) I'm Grumpy Bashful

GDoc: I'm Grumpy Doc – how are you feeling my dear?
 GG: And I'm the **really** grumpy one and I demand to know who you are and what you are doing in our cottage!
 Snow White: Oh, please don't be cross. I'm running away from my stepmother. She wants to kill me! I must reach Prince Rupert before she finds out I'm still alive.
 GG: But he lives miles away (*dwarves accompany directions with actions*)
 GH: It's through the forest ...
 GDop: over the mountains ...
 GDoc: past the waterfall ...
 GSnee: along the riverside ...
 GSlee: down the valley ... (*All look at GSlee resting near pillar*)
 GB: and over the bridge.
 All: It's a long, long way.
 GSlee: (*picks up the wrong cue because he's been asleep, he sings ...*) ...to Tipperary!
 (*other dwarves look at him strangely before continuing, GSlee goes back to sleep*)
 Snow White: (*getting up wearily*) Oh dear, then I'd better leave now, or I shall be spending another night in the forest. I'm so sorry to have troubled you ...
 GG: Just a minute. Just a minute! You haven't told us who you are.
 Snow White: O, I'm sorry. I'm Snow White.

DW & WW enter singing their jingle, see the grumpies glowering at them:

Grumpies: Geroff!
 DW & WW: Sorry!
 DW & WW scurry off hurriedly

Dwarves watch DW & WW exit and then turn to SW looking astonished.

GDoc: Your name is Snow White?
 GHap: But that means your stepmother is the Queen – HER!!
 GDop: And we hate HER!
 GBash: She's the wickedest person in the whole wide world.
 GSnee: And it's her fault we're living here!
 GDoc: When she became Queen we were the only one's who knew who she really was.
 She was scared we'd tell everyone so she sent us to the jungle in Australia ...
 for years!
 GDop: Years? (*counting off on his fingers, looks as if GDoc must be exaggerating*)
 GDoc: (*offended*) – We've been on 'I'm Vertically Challenged Make Me A Celebrity'
 (*looking pointedly at GDop*) any amount of time with Ant & Dec seems like an eternity!
 GBash: The grub wasn't bad
 GG: The grubs were disgusting (*pretends to be sick*)
 GDoc: And the place was bugged (*GDop tries to pick fleas from GDoc & Self*)
 GHap: Film-making isn't glamorous, you know (*acts the Diva*)

Insert audience sequence – ‘I’m A Celebrity’ – one dwarf sticks phone numbers on all their backs, audience votes for the grumpiest, each dwarf has the opportunity to make their own case if they want to ...

GSlee: wakes up – I’m a Celebrity? I loved it there! So much peace and quiet, the pleasant humming of insects and twittering of exotic birds to lull you to sleep

...

GG: ... the sound of the rest of us arguing all the time!

All Grumpies nod in agreement

GHap: It was a shame we had to leave before we found out who won, though!

GDoc: looking guilty - SORRY!

Other Grumpies look at him accusingly

GBashful taps GDoc timidly on the shoulder and whispers a suggestion in his ear:

GDoc: looking at GBash Well, yes, I suppose we could! Whispers to other dwarves who respond with a mixture of uncertainty and enthusiasm according to individual characters

GG: Do you think this lot are clever enough?

GDoc: Well, let’s give it a try!

To audience – We missed out on the voting when we were in the jungle – please would you help us? We’d like to know who is the Grumpiest Grumpy of all!

Will you help? (audience reaction) GG strikes a pose as if there’s no real choice involved, others respond (body language/pose) as per character

GSlee: to audience This is almost worth staying awake for! Where are the phone numbers?

GBash look increasingly worried as if he just wants to hide, SW supports him gently.

GSlee rubs his bottom...

GSlee: No mobile phones though!

GSnee: Don’t be silly – we don’t want them all getting shot with arrows, do we?

SW: (fetching grumpometer from wings) No phones! The audience can shout out for the grumpometer! (SW strikes a ‘magician’s assistant’ pose)

GG: OK, you lot! Time to make the right decision!

GDoc: This is how we’ll do it. Each of us will explain why we’re the grumpiest and then at the end, you can vote. Who’s going first?

GG: Me, of course!!

Mike – do you want to add in a suitable bit here? Or ...

I hate xxxx, that makes me grumpy. I hate xxxx, now that only makes me a little bit grumpy but, xxxx makes me really, really grumpy and then I (explanation of what you do when you feel grumpy ie. I go bright red in the face, steam comes out of my ears and I scream very, very loudly!) Be warned – if you don’t vote for me, you’ll find out just how bad it can be ...

GHap: Forget the rules – you know what these shows are all about – vote for me because I’ll keep you all smiling!!

GSlee: Vote for me Vote quickly ... before I fall asleep again ... (settles against a pillar comfortably and begins to nod off)

SW pushes GBash forward gently and passes him a basket (filled with sweets)...

- GBash:* I'm sure no one will want to vote for me, but ...
(begins handing out sweets in the audience, after a little while GSnee joins him but sneezes all over the sweets. He takes one or two out, wipes them on his sleeve and tries to hand them to someone in audience ...)
- All:* Yeeeuuuch!
- GBash retreats.*
- GSnee:* That's why I'm the grumpiest – how would you feel if that kept happening to you?
- GDop:* *Dirk – any ideas for this bit????!!*
- GDoc:* *John - any ideas????!!! Or ...*
- I'm last – that just shows how clever I am! And that's really my problem – an expensive education, doctor of medicine, doctor of philosophy, doctor of law – I'm all those things! Imagine being stuck in a forest (or a jungle) with this lot with that kind of training.
(SW encourages audience to be sympathetic 'aaaahhhh')
(crossly) I don't want your sympathy, just don't be surprised how grumpy I can be!!!!
- GHap:* Time to vote!
Routine with each dwarf turning back on audience to show their numbers (cheeky ad libs?) followed by GHap (?) GDoc (?) GG (?) orchestrating the voting and coming up with a final result. How about threatening the audience with a custard pie or two which eventually land on one/more of the dwarves?
- GDoc:* Anyway, Snow White – back to the real business. You see, we were sent away because we know who your stepmother really is – we know she is really a witch.
- Snow White:* A witch?!
- GBash:* That's why we live right out here – once the filming finished we had to hide somewhere.
- Snow White:* Oh, you poor things.
- GG:* Oh, no, not poor! *(forced whisper)* We have our own stilton mine underneath Kinoulton.
- GDoc:* That's why Kinoulton's so smelly all the time ...
- GHap:* We've got more cheese than Cheddar Gorge!
- GBash:* Only problem is, we can't sell it, in case SHE finds out about us being back.
- GHap:* That's why we can't hire anyone to clean the house.
- GBash:* Or cook and sew.
- GDoc:* I don't suppose you could do it could you?
- GDop:* *(scratches his head, knows he's not clever and looks at the others as if they must be even worse!)* Don't be silly. Princesses don't cook and clean and sew.
- Snow White:* Oh, but I do! *(dwarves all look interested, GDop looks confused)* But I'm afraid I can't, I must search for Prince Rupert.
- GG:* *(reluctant to let go of the possibility of a good cook etc.)* But – but, you can't walk there. Not on your own. It's very dangerous and anyway it's ...
- GHap:* It's through the forest ...
- GDop:* over the mountains ...

GDoc: past the waterfall ...
GSnee: along the riverside ...
GSlee: down the valley ... (*all look in GSlee direction*)
GBash: and over the bridge.
All: It's a long, long way.
GSlee: ... to Tipperary (*other dwarves shrug their shoulders/ hands in air - resignedly*)
GDoc: Why don't you stay with us for a few days? We'll send a message to Prince Rupert and he can meet you here. It'll be a lot safer. (*all nod in agreement*)
Snow White: Well, if you think that's best ...
GH: Oh, we do!
Others: We do!
Snow White: Then I will, thank you!
GDop: And will you clean and cook and wash for us while you're waiting?
The others gag him with their hands and say: Shhhh!
Snow White: (*laughing*) Of course I will.

Song: (Dwarves) The Sun Has Got His Hat On

All: Snow White is going to stay now, Hip Hip Hooray!!
She's going to cook and clean all day
Hooray for her, Hooray!!

GHap: Snow White is gonna stay now, Hip Hip Hip Hooray!
I'll tell her jokes and make her laugh
Then she'll want to stay

GG: It's girly's work to cook and clean, Hip Hip Hip Hooray
So we men just make the mess
We men can eat our fill!

(rest of the dwarves & SW look shocked, awkward pause and GBashful is pushed forward for the next verse)

GBashful tries to start singing, shyness overwhelms him, no words come & the dwarves give up & move on to:

GDop: I'll do a little dance now, Hip Hip Hip Hooray
I'll do a silly dance now
Hooray, Hip Hip Hooray

GDoc: (over a sleeping GSleepy)
Snow White will make our beds now, Hip Hip Hooray!!
And if we really ask her nice
She'll warm them up and stay!!

GSnee: *No more yucky food now, Hip Hip Hooray*
No more mess and dust inside
We've room to rest and play!

Snow White is going to stay now, Hip Hip Hip Hooray!!
She's going to cook and clean all day
Hooray for her, Hooray!!

Scene 5

Front of curtain.

The Queen enters with Eric following carrying a wooden box. Snow White's scarf can be seen hanging from the lid.

The Queen sweeps triumphantly across the stage.

Queen: Tell me again! Tell me again! I want to savour every last little detail.

Eric: *(playing up to his part with a wink to the audience)* Mother, it was truly terrible. The wolf was the size of a ... a *(stretches his arms wide)* a bull and its teeth were as sharp as a thousand needles. She didn't stand a chance! It was all over in seconds – there was a terrible mess! *(striking a manly pose)* I had to use all my strength to chase it away to get the proof you required!

Eric kneels and presents the casket which the Queen snatches away. She pulls out the blood-stained scarf examining it with real pleasure – as she does this the tooth falls to the ground. She picks it up eagerly and tests its sharpness etc. Eric winks again at the audience.

Queen: Ah! This is a story I will never tire of! She's dead! DEAD! How dare she think her beauty could ever compete with mine!

The Queen sweeps off stage clutching the scarf and tooth to her like treasure.

Eric: *(to audience)* Now to find my loyal friend the wolf and then off to warn Prince Rupert! He'll treat me well. Farewell Mother, I hope I never see you again!

As he turns to exit Albert enters in great distress.

Albert: Oh Eric! I've just heard the terrible news. Poor Snow White torn to pieces in the forest and eaten by wolves. And to think that only yesterday she was dancing and singing ... It just goes to show, you never can tell when you're going to die!

Eric: My Uncle Fred did. He knew the very day and the exact time.

Albert: Oh, don't be ridiculous, how could he possibly know the time and day he was going to die?

Eric: The judge told him!

Albert: Oh, how can you joke at such a terrible time!

Eric: *(to audience)* He really is very upset. Shall I tell him the truth? He won't tell anyone, will he? *(audience response)* Yes, I will! My mother is even more horrible to him than she was to me! *(To Albert)* Can you keep a secret?

Albert: *(doesn't look sure but wants to know)* Yes, yes, I'm sure I can!

Eric: Snow White isn't really dead.

Albert: Not dead?

Eric: Not dead! It's all a trick, she's on her way through the forest to find Prince Rupert at this very moment. You won't tell anyone, will you?

Albert: *(looking very excited)* Of course, of course. Mum's the word!

They shake hands and exit in opposite directions.

Enter the Mirror and the Queen.

The Queen: Mirror, mirror, on the wall
Who is the fairest of them all?

Mirror: The claim of “Fairest in the World”
Is yours, you say, by right.
But know you this, O mighty Queen,
Much fairer still is Snow White

Queen is horrified.

Mirror: You are deceived, O Queen!
Sheltered is Snow White
In safety far away
Protected from all cruel intent
And growing lovelier ev’ry day.

Queen: Oh, bitter betrayal! To be deceived and cheated by my own son! I will tear him limb from limb if I ever get my hands on him again!

Mirror, mirror, quickly tell
Where Snow White and her friends do dwell?

Mirror: *(aside to the audience)*
Ah, sacre bleu!
Sometimes, the truth, it is so hard!
(to the Queen, reluctantly)
Deep in the Forest
In the home of the dwarves
Fair Snow White
Waits for her prince to arrive.

The Mirror withdraws slowly and exits unseen by the Queen.

Queen: He will never find her alive – time to sort this out my way!
Claw of raven, tooth of dog,
Ear of bat and spawn of frog.

Lights dim, crashes of thunder and lightening, mist fills the stage. Spirits dance a hypnotic, flowing dance – they encircle the Queen as she speaks. As she finishes speaking the lights go right down and the Queen is replaced by the crone.

Shriek of fear and cry of pain
Make me ancient, wrinkled, plain,
Yellow toothed and grey of hair

Body weak and bent with care
Lame of leg and dull of eye
Skin like parchment, coarse and dry
Thick of tongue and thin of lip
Flat of foot and broad of hip.
Oh evil spirits do your task
And grant this boon of thee I ask.

The crone lurches towards the audience, cackles and leaves the stage.

Enter Topp and Bottom, very excited. Mirror is lounging nonchalantly to one side.

Bottom: Have you heard Albert's great news?
Topp: Yes, Snow White is still alive, and I'm still in love with her.
Bottom: Yes and I'm still in love with Dame Goodness Me.
Topp: Well in that case we had better find the Lurv Spec case and the key before it's too late for you. Now where can they be? (*Search for the case*).
Bottom: I've searched everywhere for it, Oh where can it be.
Topp: Do you want to phone a friend or ask the audience?
Bottom: We haven't got any friends, so let's ask the audience to help us.
Topp: You'll help us won't you? Can you shout if you see the specs case?

Search and audience reaction as the Mirror teases T&B by holding the case in front of her, and hiding it when they face her. The sequence ends with them finding the specs.

Topp: We've got the case, now all we need is the key.
Bottom: I know, why don't we ask the mirror, after all it cannot tell a lie.
Topp: Mirror mirror on the wall
Bottome is in love with the oddest of all
To stop him going on his bended knee
Please help me to find the lurv spec key.
Mirror: To find the key is your task
A member of the audience you must ask
The place they sit is quite near to me
Ask the people in seats one, two or three
Topp: 1, 2 or 3? What's that supposed to mean? 12? 123? From the left or the right?
From the front or the back?

Topp calls in DW & WW to help find the key:

Topp: Where are those two washing pests? Never here when you need them! (*sees them in the wings and calls them on*) OK, you two, time to make yourselves useful!
DW: (*hopefully*) Can we sing?
Topp: Only if you find the key ...

DW & WW get down on their hands and knees and search around on the floor in the audience area. Topp and Bottom give loud and contradictory instructions to confuse matters. Hidden at the back will be grubby white tops for DW & WW to slip over their clean costume and something to dip hands in to make hands and faces dirty too, so that when they return to the front they look grubby and dirty. Towards the end of the routine Topp tells everyone to feel under their seats and the key is finally found ...

WW: Can we sing now?
Bottom: Certainly not! Look at the state of you – time to find a new job, I'm afraid.
DW & WW: (singing)
Dirty clothes
Dirty clothes
Bring your spirits down
Dirty clothes
Dirty clothes
Make you feel so glum ...
DW & WW: Come on, let's geroff ...

Bottom encourages the audience to go 'aaaahhh', Topp just shrugs his shoulders, hands the key to the Mirror and moves on:

Topp: Now the last task we have is to find 'true love's first kiss'
Bottom: Mirror Mirror tell us this
How to find true love's first kiss
Is it here? or is it there?
To find this kiss we'll go anywhere
Mirror: The kiss that you both want and crave
Will not be yours, you must be brave!
The Prince will be the one to gain
To kiss Snow White must be his aim.
Topp: (In state of shock) Snow White and Prince Rupert, it's too much to bare. I can't take any more of it, all this poetry and thwarted love at the same time.
Bottom: Pull yourself together. Snow White is in the forest, still alive, and the Queen has gone to find her.
Topp: Yes hurry, we must get there first and warn her. We may be in time for true love's first kiss, and with any luck it will be mine.

Scene 6

Curtains open on Forest scene.

Enter Topp and Bottom

Bottom: Topp we've been walking for hours, I'm getting tired.
Topp: Stop complaining, we have to find True Love's first kiss to stop the spell.
(Slight Pause)
Bottom: Topp, I havn't eaten for hours, I'm hungry ...
Topp: For goodness sake stop whining, I'll find you something.
(searches about and finds a worm). Here you are, how about this for starters.
Bottom: Stop it, I don't like wiggly worms, they give me the willies.
Topp: That reminds me of a song ..

There's a worm at the bottom of the forest

And his name is Wiggly Woo

There's a worm at the bottom of the forest

And he wiggles through and through

He wiggles all night

He wiggles all day

He is wiggling his life away

There's a worm at the bottom of the forest

And his name is Wiggly Woo.

(Bring on audience for participation)

Topp: Come on Bottom let's get along it's getting late.
Bottom: Wait a minute there's someone coming.

Enter Dame, Albert, – nervously finding their way through the forest.

Bottom: Hey, it's Albert and Dame Goodness Me
Dame: Well if it isn't my fiasco and his twin brother.
Albert: It's getting very dark, are you sure this is the right way?
Dame: Of course, the Mirror was quite clear that if we came this way we couldn't go wrong.
Topp: What if the Queen finds Snow White first? The speed old motor mouth there spread the 'secret' she's bound to be on her way by now!
Bottom: We need a bloodhound to follow her – they're really good at tracking people down.
Albert: Really?
Bottom: Yes, all they have to do is sniff at something the missing person wore and they can follow them for miles.
Albert: You mean it could follow the scent of the Queen's faint perfume, for instance?
Dame: Course it couldn't. It's not called faint perfume for nothing you know. One whiff of that and the dog'd faint!

Bottom: I wish we had brought a dog, though – it'd frighten off anything scary.
Albert: Scary?
Topp: Yeah, it is a bit creepy in these woods isn't it?

Sound of a wolf howling in the background.

Dame: (*looking around*) Well, even if there is a wolf – it's only one wolf – we could scare it off, couldn't we?

Enter Eric and the wolf who hide behind a bush. Eric can be seen giggling at intervals.

Albert: Could we?
Topp: One look at her ugly mug and it'd run a mile (*Dame looks offended and Bottom squares up to Topp against the insult*)
Dame: Yeah! Everyone knows wolves can't bear singing!
Albert: Well, it's worth a try. And perhaps the girls and boys in the audience could shout out and warn us if something does come along? Would you do that boys and girls? Would you?
Bottom: Brilliant! Thank you! Now what are we going to sing?

Song: Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf'

The wolf runs behind them and the audience call out. They stop singing.

Bottom: What's the matter, did you see something?
Albert: It must be a wolf – they've seen a wolf!
Dame: (*looking around*) There's nothing here!
Topp: (*looking accusingly at audience*) Maybe they're just practising!

Start singing again.

Very cautiously they tiptoe around in a circle, the wolf tags on to the end of the line (audience reaction) and then exits. As they reach their original position again the Dame speaks:

Dame: (*in disgust*) There's nothing there at all. They're having us on.
Albert: Naughty children frightening us like that!

They begin singing again.

Final sequence with wolf tapping Bottom and then Albert on the shoulder, sticking his tongue out (they then run off) until just Topp and Dame are left.

Topp: Hey, where have they gone?
Dame: (*mistaking him for Bottom*) Well, never mind about them. It's much cosier with just the two of us. More romantic, wouldn't you say? (*she puckers up for a kiss*)
Topp: (*Backing away*) Let's carry on singing!

Wolf sequence continues and Topp is removed. After a moment the Dame notices he's gone.

Dame: Oooh, I say! He's gone too! It wasn't a wolf was it? (*audience response*) Oh dear. Now I'll have to sing on my own. Mind you, I'm very musical. I was born with a drum in each ear.

The Dame begins to sing again, the wolf creeps up behind her and taps her on the shoulder. She turns to face him – they both scream in terror and exit in opposite directions. Eric moves centre stage tucked up with laughter:

Eric: I haven't laughed so much in years! That'll pay them back for all those 'Mummy's Boy' jokes I've suffered for years! I'd better go and find, poor old wolfey and calm him down – I think the dame was a bit of a shock for him.

Exits laughing.

Curtains close.

Parker This way me lady...we're at a place called Hickling....now mind where you tread

Penny We've walked such a long way to find the Rolls Parker....let's just stop for a moment and have a rest.

Parker We can rest here me lady

Penny Oh thank you Parker (takes a drag from her cigarette holder) Oooh how strange...not my usual brand Parker

Parker No me lady ...sold out...I had to get these in Green Lane...locally made

Penny Heavens...how peculiar...I feel like dancing

(Parker and Penny dance to Puppet on a String)

Penny Goodness....I don't know quite what came over me

Parker I'm a good dancer me lady....shall we go on Strictly Come Dancing together

Penny Oh Parker, don't be so ridiculous

Parker Sorry me lady....this way

(Both exit)

Curtains open.

A door (for the cottage) appears at the side of the stage. The dwarves emerge one by one, followed by Snow White.

Snow White: Now don't forget. There'll be freshly baked bread and beef stew for dinner, so don't be late home.

GG: Don't worry, Snow White. Beef stew's our favourite.

GDop: Beef stew and dumplings. There will be dumplings, won't there?

Snow White: Of course there will.

GH: And honey pancakes?

GDoc: And blackberry pie?

Snow White: I think I can manage those.
GSnee: But no cherry cakes, I suppose
Snow White: Well, perhaps a few (*D4 smiles*)
GBash: And a chocolate one?
Snow White: And a chocolate one.
GG: Hmph. And I bet it's my turn to do the washing up.
Snow White: Don't worry – it'll all be done before you get home. Now off you go, or you'll never get any work done!
GDoc: Now, you be careful, Snow White. The evil Queen may know you're still alive, so whatever you do – don't let anyone into the house and talk to no-one!

Dwarves exit singing their work song. Snow White waves them off and then sits by the door with some sewing.

There is a knock on the window. Snow White sees an old Crone standing there carrying a basket of shiny red apples ...

SW: Hello, old lady, what can I do for you?
Crone: I would like to sell you some beautiful tasty apples ... all homegrown and hand picked by myself.
SW: I'm sorry but I am not allowed to open the door – but these apples do look lovely.
Crone: Don't worry dear, you don't have to open the door, I will pass them through the window

Snow White takes the basket through the window

Crone: Do try one my dear! They taste delicious!
SW: Oh, I really don't know if I should.
Crone: Just a little bite won't hurt, will it?
SW: Alright, I will! They do look scrumptious

SW takes a bite and instantly falls down. The Old Crone laughs triumphantly, throws off her shawl and says:

Crone: She is dead! Dead! Finally she is dead! Now my beauty will remain unchallenged forever!!!

Short burst of the Queen's signature tune – Mars suite.

- *As SW lies, apparently dead, Prince Rupert can be heard calling her in the distance – sometimes closer and sometimes further away as he searches*
- *The dwarves find Snow White and she is laid respectfully on a bed.*
- *The dwarves pass one by one, hats off and clearly sorrowful.*
- *GDopey gently lifts an arm as he passes to make sure she is dead – it falls limply and he begins to weep.*

- When they have all passed the dwarves retreat to the back of the stage, heads bent and hats held in front of them.
- Finally, GDopey (Dirk) rushes forward, pushes the pianists aside and plays the Death March (briefly).
- Silence falls - the other Grumpies stay to the rear of the stage with heads bowed.
- GBashful and some of the woodland creatures pass tissues around the audience. Woodland creatures gather sorrowfully on either side of the stage (FOC) GDopey returns to his place with the others.

(Eric enters)

Eric: Wait a minute – I've got an idea. There is somebody else who can help. Boys and girls, what about International Rescue? Shall we call them? 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1
(audience participation, etc)

Enter Parker and LadyP

Lady P: Oh dear, the situation looks dire.

Parker: Me lady, I've got an idea. You've seen my comprehensive tool kit...

Lady P: Oh! Not now, Parker!

Parker: But me lady, what about this?

Lady P: Ok, let's give it a try.

Pulls out plunger. Attempts to dislodge apple fail.

Lady P holds up wand (cigarette holder?) and recites:

Lady P: Snow White is dead? This can't be true
We've tried the plunger – that didn't do.
So in this tale – a chance not to miss
Is to ask the prince to give her a kiss.

Prince enters during the poem and looks first despairingly and then with hope at SW. He kisses Snow White who awakes.

- Dame, Albert, Topp and Bottom arrive (on the edge of the stage FOC) in time to witness 'true love's first kiss'

Lady P: (moving **front of curtain** she gestures to Topp and Bottom to draw the curtains behind her (Dame & Albert exit behind curtain) and join her FOC)
So Lurv Spec's spell has shattered
Poor Topp & Bottom's hearts are battered
The search must now begin
New hearts to win
And a happy ending for each twin!

(Exit Lady P)

Scene 8

(FOC)

Topp & Bottom improvise a search for true love routine in the audience.

- *How will we do it? Internet? Dating Agency?*
- *Hang on a minute – what about this lot?*
- *OK, this is useless! There's no-one here for us, maybe we'll find someone at the wedding*
- *Oh! and you lot might as well join us too – you might have a bit of luck as well!*

Topp & Bottom exit as

Enter Queen who is struggling and bickering with Parker who is restraining her.

Queen: Keep your hands off me.

Enter Lady P, on her mobile phone.

Lady P: Jeff, good news, mission accomplished - FAB. We've rescued Snow White.

Now Jeff, what are we to do with the Queen? A choice of 3.....I'm to ask the audience.....a night out with Simon Cowell (*Queen pleasantly surprised*), a makeover with Trinny and Suzannah ...

Queen: I don't need one, but if you insist and it means new clothes.

Lady P: Or.....no....., surely not Jeff, we can't send her there...but you're right – she did try to kill Snow White after all. So the 3rd and most terrible punishment – to be sent to live forever in the stinky stilton mines of K – I – N – O – U – L – T – O – N....! Parker, take her away.....(*exit Queen screaming with Parker*)

Parker then returns

Lady P: Ah, sweet success! It's time to go to the wedding. Now then, Parker, this time – get me the Roller (that'll fool him)

(Parker returns with garden roller)

Parker: There you are, me lady. (*Parker wheels Lady P off stage*).

Scene 9

Finale and curtain call – Mirror calls in cast:

Mirror: Well, mes amis, I have been so much in demand, everyone wanted to make sure they looked their best for the wedding and so I have been kept very busy showing them all how magnificent they look in their wedding finery. I will now present them to you. Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, please welcome: -

*The Woodland Creatures
Members of the Crowd
Daz White and Whiter than White
The 7 Grumpy Old Men
Eric and The Wolf
Lady Penelope and Parker
Topp and Bottome
Dame Goodness-Me
The Evil Queen
Myself, and lastly ...a round of applause for
Hinge and Brackett on the piano
Caroline and her sound effects
Lyn and Kirsty on the curtains
Bob and Mary-Anne for the sets and props and behind the scenes
And last of all ...
Prince Rupert and his lovely bride, Snow White*

Song: (Grease) We'll Always Be Together

The End.