



Snow White

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Snow White

Once upon a time there was a sad queen, who took comfort in sewing while sitting by the window, so that she could occasionally gaze out. One winter's day, while flakes of snow were falling in abundance, she pricked her finger with the needle, and droplets of blood fell on the snow on the black windowsill.

Sometimes amazing coincidences happen, has this ever happened to you? For example, you think of something and, moments after, you find it right in front of you! Something similar happened to the queen, in fact a few months later she gave birth to a baby girl, who – guess what! – she had skin as white as snow, cheeks as red as blood and hair as black as the wood window frame. Therefore they called her Snow White. Alas! As soon as the child was born, the queen died.

One year later, the king married again. With an affectionate and kind woman, you'd think... But no! The second wife was proud and arrogant, and she couldn't bear that anyone else could surpass her in beauty.

Sometimes, she stood in front of the mirror and looked at herself in it, and said:
"Looking-glass, looking-glass, on the wall, who in this land is the fairest of all?"

"No doubt, thou, arrogant queen, art the fairest of all" the mirror always replied, and the queen, who didn't know the meaning of the word arrogant, left satisfied, for she knew that the mirror spoke the truth.

But as Snow White was growing up, she grew more and more beautiful, as beautiful as a



sunny day, and, perhaps, even more beautiful than the queen herself. And once when the queen asked her mirror: "Looking-glass, looking-glass, on the wall, who in this land is the fairest of all?"

"Thou art fairer than all who are here, stubborn queen. But more beautiful still is Snow White, as I ween."

When she heard these words, the queen went into a mighty rage, and luckily she didn't know the meaning of the word stubborn; she called a huntsman and ordered him to kill Snow White and deliver the proof of her death. The huntsman took the girl far into the forest, but he had pity and couldn't bring himself to hurt her. So, he made her promise that she would never go back and, in order to calm down the queen, he brought her the lung and liver of a small wild boar that he stabbed, and she thought that she had finally got rid of the young girl forever. I really wouldn't want to be in poor Snow White's shoes! She was all alone and lost in the great forest, she was so afraid that even the branches and leaves on the trees frightened her and she didn't know how to save her life. She ran as long as her feet and legs would go until it was almost evening, then she saw a little cottage and went into it to rest herself.



Everything in the cottage was tiny, but wonderfully clean and tidy. There was a table covered with an embroidered cloth, on which were six little plates: on each plate one little spoon, six little knives, six little forks and six little mugs.

One moment: Six? How is it possible? Let's count again: one, two, three, four, five and six... Oh yes, it was just set for six. But against the wall stood seven little beds side by side, with seven soft blankets. The figures don't add up! Snow White, however, was too hungry and thirsty to care about the figures. She ate and drank something from each little plate and mug, for she did not wish to take all from one only. Then, as she was exhausted, she laid herself down on one of the little beds, but none of them suited her: the first was too long, the second too short, the third too tight, the fourth too wide, the fifth too soft, the sixth too hard. At last she found that the seventh one was right, she laid herself down on it and, as soon as she closed her eyes, she fell asleep.

When it was quite dark the owners of the cottage came back home: they were six dwarfs who dug and delved in the mountains. They soon realized that someone had been there, for everything was not in the same order in which they had left it.

"Who has been sitting on my chair?" the first one said.

The second replied, "Who has been eating off my plate?"

The third groaned, "Who has been taking some of my bread?"

The fourth said, "Who has been eating my vegetables?"

The fifth mumbled, "Who has been using my little fork?"



The sixth complained, "Who has been drinking out of my mug?"

Then they looked round and the first saw that there was a little hollow on his bed, and so it was for the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth, the sixth ... "Oooooh!" they cried all out together, looking at the seventh bed. Then they brought some candles and let the light fall closely on Snow White and they gave a start of joy, but let her sleep on.

The following morning was time for the introductions: Snow White told them how she had managed to get to the cottage and she told them all about the evil step-mother. The dwarfs, instead, explained that a few days earlier one of them had actually disappeared, nobody knew where he was, they had looked for him under the beds, over the roof, inside the closet, even at the bottom of the well, but nothing at all.

They were terribly worried and Snow White, feeling pity for them, promised that she would do everything she could to help them to find him. After breakfast, the dwarfs went to the mountains and looked for minerals and gold.

"Beware of your step-mother" they warned her as they greeted her, "she might find you're here! Don't open that door to anyone!"

But the queen, believing that she had eaten Snow White's lung and liver, couldn't but think that she was again the first and most beautiful of the realm, and she went to her mirror and





said "Looking-glass, looking-glass, on the wall, who in this land is the fairest of all?"

"Oh, stubborn queen, none is so fair as Snow White, as I ween."

Immediately the queen lit up with anger, even if she didn't remember the meaning of the word stubborn anymore, since – it is a well-known fact by now – the looking-glass never spoke falsely, so she knew that the huntsman had betrayed her, and that little Snow White was still alive. "Snow White must die!" she screamed as she ran to a secret room where she prepared a very poisonous apple, that outside was beautiful, white and red, but anyone who ate a bite, would die instantly.

She then dressed herself like an old pedlar-woman and she went over to the cottage of the seven dwarfs, who in the meantime had become six. She knocked at the door, but Snow White was out in search of the missing dwarf.

"It doesn't matter" the queen thought, "I'll leave the apple on the windowsill. When Snow White will see it, she won't be able to resist and she at last will drop dead!"

But the girl, actually, after a sweep of the area went back home and did not notice anything. Shortly after, another coincidence happened. I told you that amazing things happen sometimes!

A prince who was wandering in the forest heard a cry coming out from a small cave: it was the seventh dwarf, the most forgetful of all of them, who got lost and, panicky and sobbing, was sitting there, hoping that someone would come to rescue him. And so it was: fortunately the prince helped him to find his way

home and the dwarf, cheered up, took courage and slowly was able to find his way around. In front of the door, the prince introduced himself to Snow White and, on learning the situation, she was so happy that she couldn't help to hug him.

While those two were focused on talking to each other, the dwarf eyed up the beautiful red apple and, since he hadn't eaten any food for a few days, he immediately took a large bite out of it.

Alas! He didn't know that the apple was poisoned, so there was no time to take a second bite as he was already lying on the ground. Needless to say, Snow White and the prince were getting desperate. The dwarfs would soon come back. What a disgrace! They tried to pat the dwarf on his cheeks, fan him and splash cold water on his face. But, there were no signs of life. At a certain point when they were trying to lift him up, as they laid him down on the bed, it happened that the piece of poisoned apple that he had swallowed came out of his throat: he wasn't dead, he had just fainted! He sat up and said: "I'm forgetful, that's true, but you saved my life and for sure I won't forget it! I can recognize when something is done with love..."

The dwarf wasn't wrong: Snow White and the prince felt that a special friendship was born between them, a friendship that soon turned into love. The other six dwarfs came back home and listened to the tale of that day, it was full of extraordinary fortuitous events.

The dwarfs were the ones who organized a wonderful wedding between Snow White and the prince, with a feast as rich as you have never seen before. Just one food, however, was forever banished from the kingdom and I'm sure you know which food that is!



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