

Act I

SCENE 1 THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL

MUSIC PLAY ON

The MAGIC MIRROR enters, a shimmering silver form trapped within an elaborate frame.

MUSIC OMINOUS UNDERSCORE

MIRROR This magical kingdom is where our story starts.
It's an ancient German land, by the name of Meinfahrt.
Where snow-covered mountain tops peak above mist,
It's chilly, and cold, and well... you get the gist!

The realm remains frozen while the Queen reigns supreme,
For the King's disappearance was a part of her scheme.
It's a brutal and bitter winter of discontent,
Just like it's creator Queen Malevolent.

MUSIC PLAY ON

QUEEN MALEVOLENT enters. Her dark flowing robes sparkle with glamour and a sharp crown is placed firmly on her head.

The Queen seeks advice from my all-seeing glass.
So I ponder and warn of what may come to pass.
Reluctantly I cannot lie or conceal,
When she briskly demands with her tongue sharp as steel.

QUEEN M. Magic mirror on the wall,
Who is the fairest of them all?

MIRROR Until now, my Queen, you've been fairest by rite.
But now she's of age, it's the Princess Snow White.

QUEEN M. The princess? That scrounger. You're sure there's no other?

MIRROR There's not -

QUEEN M. - then she'll die like her father and mother!

MIRROR A brilliant plan oh great Queen, I am sure,
But it's not quite that simple -

QUEEN M. - her demise I'll secure!

MIRROR But my Queen, it's your actions which set this in motion.

QUEEN M. What do you mean? Did I cause a commotion?

MIRROR In that monstrous storm you evoked long ago

Evil cackle.

SFX A BLIZZARD BREWS

Under the dialogue a sequence plays out scenes from SNOW WHITE's past. If no young person is available, the sequence could be portrayed by puppets or shadows. An infant, SNOW WHITE and her mother, appear in the background battling a blizzard, the late Queen protecting her daughter. They gradually come to a halt and the Queen collapses around her daughter in a final attempt to keep SNOW WHITE safe and warm.

The old Queen perished -

QUEEN M. - frozen in the snow!

SNOW WHITE's father, the King appears and rescues infant SNOW WHITE from the storm. Her mother's caring arms release SNOW WHITE without resistance.

MIRROR But the Princess survived the ordeal unscathed.
So the King bought a ruby, for the Princess he raised.

MUSIC **NECKLACE STING**

The King places a necklace containing a large heart-shaped ruby pendant in young SNOW WHITE's hands. She grasps it tightly to her chest.

His jewellers imbued it with fairness and truth
Which created her kindness and radiant youth.
The magic will last 'til she breaths her last breath.

QUEEN M. It soon will be mine, as I seek Snow White's death.

Evil cackle. The King and young SNOW WHITE disappear.

MUSIC **EVIL STING**

But first I'll obtain a ruby of my own.
From the very same makers I long-since disowned.
Help me, Magic Mirror, locate the royal jewellers
Who last served that King. The most tiresome of rulers.

MIRROR You'll find them a team of nine, ten or eleven.
Wait! That's not right, they're a band of just seven!

The SEVEN DWARFS appear in the background. Each strikes a pose: SARG a military salute, JOKEY arms aloft as if indicating a laugh, GIGGLY a frozen belly laugh, MISERY arms folded shoulders hunched, JOLLY waves enthusiastically, HIPPY hands in pockets rocking on heels, OLDIE hunched over a walking stick or zimmer frame.

MUSIC **MAGICAL STING**

QUEEN M. No matter their number, ensure that they're found.

MIRROR Yes my Queen. I'll keep my nose to the ground.

The SEVEN DWARFS melt away and exit.

Though in order to do so, may I be released?
For a little while, let's say a week at the least.

QUEEN M. I suppose, if required -

QUEEN MALEVOLENT casts a spell with her hands.

SFX **MAGIC SPELL**

- Mirror on the wall,
Escape from your frame, attend my beck and call!

SFX MAGIC MIRROR RELEASE

MAGIC MIRROR elegantly emerges from their frame leaving it behind.

MIRROR A quick spell and I'm out -

QUEEN M. - Now remember your duty.

MIRROR Bring you the Dwarfs that first stirred up her beauty.

QUEEN M. That's right. She's no infant now, those days are gone.

Young SNOW WHITE appears once more, running across the stage, she magically transforms into present day SNOW WHITE a confident young woman, her Father's ruby hanging safely around her neck.

And to downplay her power is foolish and wrong.
For I will not stop til she's stone cold and pale.
Do I need to remind you that I never fail!

Evil cackle.

MUSIC PLAY OFF

MIRROR I'm now free to roam, venture out and about.
I will uphold my word, for I cannot back out.
Though in secret my loyalty's bound to remain,
With the late King and Queen who made me and this frame.

MAGIC MIRROR indicates their mirror frame.

So onwards my friends, I'll be near, close at hand.
Worry not. Wicked plots rarely quite go as planned.
By the end of our show, will all wrongs have turned right?
Let's find out, in our pantomime tale of Snow White.

MUSIC PLAY OFF