

SCENE 6 THE DEPTHS OF THE FROZEN FOREST

A wintery snow-covered forest. The tree tips glisten with icicles, and a quaint stream runs frozen through the landscape. Snow topped mushrooms and pine cones are littered across the scene.

ENSEMBLE as townsfolk of Meinfahrt and forest dwellers are gathered with picnic hampers, blankets and flasks of hot chocolate enjoying a hearty feast in the chilly landscape. SNOW WHITE and PRINCE WILLIAM are tucking into a full picnic hamper wearing warm travelling cloaks.

SONG WINTER FESTIVAL NUMBER, SUGGEST 'WINTER WONDERLAND'

At the end of the song, ENSEMBLE strike a joyful pose, and begin to pack up their things.

SNOW W. It's just like the old days. Everyone out in the cold enjoying themselves.

PRINCE W. Just like when we were growing up.

SNOW W. I used to come here all the time with Father. I think it reminded him of Mother.

PRINCE W. Do you miss him?

SNOW W. Terribly. We used to play in the clearing by a quaint little cottage. I'm sure it's
around here somewhere.

ENSEMBLE Your father would be proud Snow White.

ENSEMBLE Come on everyone. We ought to find somewhere cosy to warm up.

An enthusiastic young member of the ENSEMBLE protests.

ENSEMBLE Can't we keep playing in the snow?

Their parent points out SNOW WHITE and PRINCE WILLIAM to indicate they might be hoping to be left alone for a while.

ENSEMBLE Time to go inside. You can play in the snow another day.

MUSIC PLAY OFF

ENSEMBLE exit.

PRINCE W. I suppose you remember it as it was in the summer time, rather than all this wintery snow and ice.

SNOW W. You're right. It feels as though we are in the right place but it looks completely different with Queen Malevolent's spell over it.

PRINCE W. You must be freezing. Take my cloak.

PRINCE WILLIAM removes his cloak and offers it to SNOW WHITE.

SNOW W. That's kind. Thank you.

PRINCE W. Is it true that you're named after the snow itself?

SNOW W. It was my father's idea. I survived the blizzard that killed my mother and felt it was a miracle. She was returning home to the castle with me in her arms and the blizzard seemed to come from nowhere. She was struck down but my father saw the storm and left immediately to come to our aide. He was too late for my mother, but he found me wrapped up warm in her arms with snowflakes glistening on my face. So he named me Snow White to mark my resilience against the snow flakes that took my mother. Now that he's gone, every time snow falls it reminds me of him.

MUSIC PLAY ON

HEINRICH enters unseen by SNOW WHITE and PRINCE WILLIAM.

HEINRICH There they are! I have to carry out the Queen's wishes. Come on Heinrich. Don't be such a baby.

HEINRICH hides nearby.

PRINCE W. Perhaps today we can create some new memories. Perhaps a dance, or a
kiss in the snow?

SNOW W. Let's start with a dance. Take my hand.

They hold hands and begin the choreography for...

SONG UPBEAT DUET

During the duet, SNOW WHITE and PRINCE WILLIAM dance around the Frozen Forest while HEINRICH tries with increasing desperation to kill SNOW WHITE. He uses a variety of comedy tools but each time injures himself instead, or is thwarted by PRINCE WILLIAM whisking SNOW WHITE away from under a trap. At the end of the song HEINRICH is poised ready to stab SNOW WHITE from behind a tree with a dagger.

HEINRICH Will you keep still!

SNOW W. &
PRINCE W. What?

They turn around to see HEINRICH holding the dagger in the air threateningly. He hides it, but too late.

SNOW W. Heinrich, what are you doing here?

PRINCE W. Was that a knife?

HEINRICH More of a dagger really.

SNOW W. You ought to be careful. That could have done some real damage.

HEINRICH is clearly very uncomfortable.

HEINRICH Of course, your highness. I will be more careful in future.

PRINCE W. Do you have a message from Queen Malevolent?

HEINRICH Something like that.

HEINRICH becomes distressed.

SNOW W. Oh Heinrich, whatever is the matter?

HEINRICH I can't -

PRINCE W. - come on old chap, it can't be as bad as all that.

HEINRICH, under pressure, is fit to burst.

HEINRICH Queen Malevolent ordered me to kill Snow White!

MUSIC EVIL STING

PRINCE W. Surely not.

SNOW W. That's horrid.

PRINCE W. But it was Queen Malevolent that suggested this picnic in the first place.

SNOW WHITE and PRINCE WILLIAM exchange looks and understand simultaneously what has happened.

SNOW W. That was her plan all along. To send us into the woods and have Heinrich follow us out here.

They turn on him.

PRINCE W. That's rather dastardly behaviour Heinrich.

HEINRICH She threatened to feed me to the wolves for their supper.

SNOW W. I have to hide. Once she finds out Heinrich did not succeed, she'll come after me herself.

PRINCE W. You're right. There's no time to lose. We'll send Heinrich back to the castle. He can tell the Queen that he succeeded. That should buy enough time for us to flee the kingdom to safety.

HEINRICH She wants your necklace.

SNOW W. My necklace? But my father gave it to me?

MUSIC NECKLACE STING

HEINRICH Exactly. She asked for it as proof you that were dead.

SNOW W. I can't leave the kingdom. What about the people? I have a responsibility to them.

HEINRICH You must escape, Princess. It's the only way Queen Malevolent will ever be stopped.

MUSIC PLAY ON

HEATHER DUSTER and MUDDLES enter.

MUDDLES Hiya kids!

AUDIENCE response.

HEATHER D. Hello *Victim*!

VICTIM response.

HEINRICH What are you two doing here?

HEATHER D. I was about to ask you the same question.

MUDDLES *(To HEATHER DUSTER)* And I was about to ask you the same question.

HEATHER D. Well, you know why I'm doing here. It's the same reason that you're here.

MUDDLES Is it?

HEATHER D. Yes. That's why we've arrived together.

MUDDLES Are you sure?

ALL Not me!

SNOW W. I'm not sure we've met.

MUDDLES, realising who SNOW WHITE is starstruck.

HEATHER D. I'm the new castle cleaner, Heather Duster. And this is my son.

HEATHER DUSTER indicates MUDDLES

MUDDLES M-m-m-m-m-

HEATHER D. - Muddles!

MUDDLES Yeah. Muddles. Wait. No, I'm not.

HEATHER D. Oh yes you are!

PRINCE W. Pleased to meet you.

HEATHER D. You must be Prince William, and -

MUDDLES - Princess Snow White!

SNOW W. We need your help. Will you stay here with me while Prince William and Heinrich go back to the castle?

HEATHER D. Of course.

MUDDLES Anything for you, Snow White.

HEATHER D. Will you stop it, it's revolting. It's like being around a teenager. Falling in love, all that time in their bedroom.

HEINRICH Happy memories.

HEATHER D. For you maybe, but not your parents. *(Aside)* She knows what I mean.

PRINCE W. I'm not leaving you here.

SNOW W. You must. The Queen won't believe Heinrich if you stay here. She'll know we've fled.

HEATHER D. Are you double crossing the Queen?

HEINRICH I'm afraid so.

HEATHER D. Thank goodness for that. A nastier piece of work, I never have met.

PRINCE W. Snow White's right. We must leave.

HEINRICH We'll come back for you once it's safe for you to return.

SNOW W. Take my necklace. Keep it safe.

MUSIC NECKLACE STING

SNOW WHITE gives PRINCE WILLIAM her necklace. He places it safely in a pouch or pocket.

PRINCE W. Take care, Princess.

PRINCE WILLIAM hugs SNOW WHITE tightly, then kisses her hand.

Until we meet again.

HEINRICH Your highness.

HEINRICH bows to SNOW WHITE.

MUSIC PLAY OFF

PRINCE WILLIAM and HEINRICH exit.

SNOW W. All we need now is a safe place to wait.

MUSIC PLAY ON

The SEVEN DWARFS enter, they each strike their chosen pose from the top of the show.

HEATHER D. What's all this?

MUDDLES Well it's the Royal Jewellers isn't it. Didn't you read the programme?

SNOW W. I can't believe it.

SARG greets SNOW WHITE with the warmth of a kindly uncle.

SARG Princess Snow White.

SNOW W. It's really you. My father's keepers of the crown jewels.

MUDDLES I'm wearing a pair of Calvin Kleins that are doing a great job as keepers of the crown jewels.

HEATHER D. You're not the only one. Although mine are a bit more upmarket. They've got gems and diamonds all over them.

MUDDLES I had heard your knickers were encrusted.

HEATHER D. I can only apologise for my son. It truly is a pleasure to meet you all.

SNOW W. Where have you been all these years?

MISERY Cooped up in a cottage.

SNOW W. Here in the Frozen Forest?

HIPPY That's right, dude.

OLDIE Until Queen Malevolent's Magic Mirror summoned us to meet with her.

JOKEY She wanted us to make *her* a jewel like yours!

SNOW W. Then she'll have her wish.

MISERY We told her where to stuff it!

GIGGLY Misery, you have such a way with words.

GIGGLY giggles.

MUDDLES She means the Queen will soon have the jewel from around her neck.

SNOW W. Prince William and Heinrich are delivering it to her now. It's the only way to keep me safe.

HEATHER D. The Queen must believe that Snow White is dead.

OLDIE What about the necklace? Won't it make Queen Malevolent the fairest in the land.

SARG There is no magic in the necklace or the jewel.

JOLLY You've got to be joking!

JOKEY That's my job!

SARG
White Snow White's father commissioned us to carve a jewel that would keep Snow
safe from evil. So that's what we did.

SNOW W. When you delivered the jewel you told him it was magical.

SARG I told him it would protect you as he had asked.

SNOW W. So my father assumed?

SARG That's right. He spread word around the kingdom that you were protected by
the necklace. No one has ever questioned it since.

MUDDLES You mean Queen Malevolent is going to be as old and ugly as ever?

GIGGLY That's right!

GIGGLY giggles.

OLDIE But without your necklace you are vulnerable.

MUDDLES The Queen won't be too happy when she finds out.

SARG Oldie is right. You must stay with us until it is safe to return to the Kingdom.

SNOW W. I couldn't.

SARG But we insist!

MISERY It's the least we can do.

HIPPY In your father's honour.

SNOW W. That really is very kind.

SARG We'll keep you safe, and our woodland friends will help us too.

SARG whistles with his hand.

SFX WHISTLE

*FOREST DWELLERS enter. They could be a mix of animal and humans, or even
woodland sprites.*

MUSIC PLAY ON

SNOW W. I didn't realise there was so much life in the Frozen Forest.

HEATHER D. You'd be surprised. I've come across all sorts lurking amongst the trees.
Reminds me of *local forest*.

MUDDLES Moving swiftly on.

HEATHER D. Yes. What about us?

MUDDLES We'll freeze out here in the cold.

HEATHER D. If you let us stay, we'll keep the cottage clean as a whistle.

MUDDLES And if you ask nicely Mum will give you one of her special cuddles.

HEATHER D. Muddles!

MUDDLES This will be a new experience for you, Mum.

HEATHER D. Will it?

MUDDLES You've never been stuck in a cottage in the middle of a forest with seven little men before.

HEATHER D. Not that you know of.

SARG Of course. You must stay.

JOLLY You're all invited!

JOKEY The more, the merrier. Isn't that right, Misery.

MISERY If you say so.

GIGGLY giggles.

SARG Everyone is welcome in our little home.

SONG ACT ONE FINALE

The SEVEN DWARFS and ENSEMBLE as FOREST DWELLERS welcome SNOW WHITE, HEATHER DUSTER and MUDDLES into their woodland family. As the number progresses, they move towards the cottage in the woods. By the end of the musical number, the cottage has been revealed, perhaps it has opened and they are inside of it looking out at the audience. Or it may simply have a practical front door to allow actors in and out. The cottage can be as detailed as budget and time allows making the sequence as simple or spectacular as you wish.

MUSIC PLAY OFF

End of Act One.