

# Scene 1

*(To **intro music (CD 9)** the lights come up on a palace, represented by 'his' and 'hers' thrones. Four narrators stand to one side. The Good Queen sits alone, knitting.)*

**Narrator 1** Once upon a time there stood a grand old palace. Here lived a queen, so sweet and gentle, and a king who was....how can we put it.....not the sharpest knife in the drawer!

**Narrator 2** They lived a comfortable life, but one thing was missing that would make the queen truly happy.

**Good Queen** Here I am knitting yet another pair of little bootees. I've hundreds of them piled-up around the palace, but there's no baby to wear them.

**Narrator 3** And as the queen sat by the window, mournfully knitting, she pricked her finger. The blood dripped down and stained the snow outside on the ground.

**Good Queen** The daughter I long for would have a beautiful face with blood-red lips and her heart would be as pure as the white snow.

**Narrator 4** Now, this was a time of enchantment and magic! If someone made a wish on the snowiest day of the year, that wish would be granted. So the Queen did, indeed, have a baby girl, whom she called Snow White.

*(To the **baby gurgling (CD 10)** sound effect a 'bundle' is thrown on, and caught by the queen. If she happens to drop it, a casual 'whoops-a-daisy!' can be uttered!)*

**Narrator 4** So settle yourselves, good people, for this is where our story begins.....

*(Enter rest of the cast for the opening song.)*

## **Song Here Comes The Show** *(CD 1 & 11 – lyrics p18)* *(Whole cast)*

*(All exit, leaving three of the king's courtier's chatting to one another. There is a 'vacant' sign placed on the queen's throne.)*

**Narrator 1** But alas, things in the palace didn't stay jolly for long.

**Courtier 1** I'm not one for gossip, but I hear on the grapevine the good queen has died!

**Courtier 2** We know, but shhh, keep a lid on it. No-one's told the king yet. His tiny mind can't handle such dreadful news, so he's been told she's out shopping!

*(The king enters, carrying the baby, pacing around and clearly worried.)*

**King** Well this is just great! She goes swanning off for days on end and I'm literally left holding the baby! Oh where is she?

**Courtier 3** She'll turn up, your Majesty, just wait and see. I suggest, in the meantime, you tend to your daughter. You could both play with her new dollies – you know how you enjoy doing that.

*(The king exits with the baby.)*

**Courtier 1** The poor chap's that brainless, in a month or so he'll forget all about the queen! He need never know she's died!

**Courtier 3** But someday soon he'll need a new wife. A king must have a queen. We'd better start interviewing candidates.

**Narrator 2** Accept our apologies for interrupting, but we really need to push on with the story. So, sound-effects-person, fast-forward please.

*(To the **time fast forward** sound effect (CD 12) all courtiers enter with the king, who is blindfolded, as if to be presented with a marvellous surprise. The Bad Queen enters, followed by her three fawning cronies'. )*

**Narrator 3** The courtiers' search for a replacement queen wasn't entirely successful. Short of any suitable matches they had settled on a vain, selfish woman who was far past her 'sell-by date'. The phrase 'mutton dressed as lamb' was never more appropriate!

**Courtiers** Your Majesty, we are proud to present.....your new wife!

*(The courtiers remove the blindfold. The look on the king's face says it all!)*

## **Song Out With The Old** *(CD 2 & 13 – lyrics p19)* *(Bad Queen and Cronies, supported by the whole cast)*

*(Everyone but the queen exits.)*

**Bad Queen** The boutiques are open and I have a royal fortune to start spending. But before that.... *(clicking her fingers)* ....bring me my mirror.

*(Three of her cronies then return with an object covered with a sheet. One crony lifts the sheet, revealing an ornamental framed picture of a glamorous woman. The queen sits on her throne. As the second crony fusses over the queen, touching up her hair, the other two give the picture a quick seeing-to with a feather duster. When ready they indicate to the first crony to let the queen look. All three cronies then stand behind the picture, using it to hide from the queen.)*

**Narrator 4** Trying her best to pout, the despicable woman looked at what she believed to be a magic mirror and asked.....

**Bad Queen** Oh magic mirror, who in this land is the fairest of all?

**Narrator 1** Before we hear the reply, there is a small detail which needs explaining. Since the queen was no longer the beauty she had once been, her cronies knew that the mirror would be honest and tell her just what a hatchet-faced trout she had become!

**Crony 1** *(behind the frame, to the audience)* We therefore replaced the glass with a picture of a catwalk model. She's so desperate to re-capture her youth she'll believe anything!

**Crony 2** *(behind the frame)* She still thinks that the mirror speaks to her and tells her the truth.

**Crony 3** *(behind the frame)* And even though she's got a face like a bulldog chewing a nettle, it's us three who tell her.....

**All Cronies** *(in disguised voices)* You are the most beautiful of all women!

**Bad Queen** That's right! And it's....*(she draws a finger across her neck making a garrotting sound)*....for anyone who disagrees. Right, time to do some shopping. Let's go!

*(To the **dramatic music (CD 14)** the cackling queen flashes her oversized gold credit card and they all exit. The lights fade, the thrones are removed and cut-outs of trees are placed around the stage to represent a forest.)*

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