**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**

Once upon a time, a princess named Snow White lived in a castle with her father, the King, and her stepmother, the Queen.

Her father was a good and caring man, but her stepmother was a proud and vicious woman. The queen had a magic mirror, which she would often ask, while looking at herself:  “Mirror, mirror, on the wall, please, tell me” said the Queen.  “Who is the fairest of them all?” And the mirror would always reply in the same way: “You, my queen, are the most beautiful among them all.”I agree”said the queen. The mirror was not only magical, but it was also very honest and it would always tell the truth. And the queen loved hearing that she was the most beautiful in the world. But Snow White grew and her beauty blossomed. One day when the queen asked the mirror who was the fairest of them all, she received an unexpected and very unwanted answer:

“Snow White is the fairest of them all!” said the Magic Mirror.

 “What?!” yelled the Queen.  “I don`t agree” “No one is more fair than I!  The Queen must have the best of everything - everyone knows that.  What could be more fair than that?”

“Snow White is the fairest of them all!” repeated the Magic Mirror.

 ”I don`t agree” “What do you know – you’re a mirror!” roared the Queen.  And she stormed off.

The next day the Queen decided to be rid of the girl, once and for all.

The Queen called for her servant, a huntsman.  “Find a reason to take Snow White deep into the woods,” she said, pointing her long finger at the servant. “Then kill her.”

The huntsman was shocked!  But she was the Queen and what could he do?  The next day he took Snow White into the woods.

“Snow White, I`m sorry” said the huntsman.  “I cannot do this!”

“What's wrong?,” asked Snow White.

He dropped to his knees.  “How can I say this to you?  The Queen, your step-mother, ordered me to kill you,” he said.  “But I cannot!”

“She did what?” Snow White called out with alarm.

“You must run away, please!” said the huntsman.  “Far into the woods.  Now!  And please never come back to the castle!”

“Thank you, dear huntsman.” Snow White turned and ran into the woods as fast as she could.  It was getting dark, and the wolves were starting to howl. She was scratched, bleeding and scared.  Yet she ran on and on.

Then all of a sudden, far away, there was a light.  Who was living so deep in the woods?  She stepped up closer.  It was a cottage!  Yet no sound came from the cottage, only light from the windows.

“Hello?” she said, knocking softly on the door.  “Hello?” No answer.  The door was a little bit open.  She opened it some more and stepped in.  “Hello, is anyone home?”

She looked around.  What a mess!  She had never seen a messier living room.

“This cottage may be the biggest mess I ever saw,” she thought.  “But it's a roof over my head for tonight. Maybe if I clean up around here, I can earn my sleep.”

After Snow White cleaned up the living room, she went upstairs.  On the second floor, there were seven little beds lined up in a row, as if for children.  Tired from cleaning, Snow White yawned and lay across all seven of the beds.  Soon she fell fast asleep.

In the meantime, the Seven Dwarfs were heading home from a long day of working in the jewel mines.  When they opened the door, you can imagine their surprise when they saw their cottage all cleaned up!

“What kind of magic is this?” said one of the Dwarfs, whose name was Doc.

”I agree” “I wouldn’t mind more magic like this!” said another of the Dwarfs with a smile.

“We'd better check upstairs,” said another Dwarf.  “Something is strange around here, that’s for sure.”

There – lying across all their beds, was a young lady, fast asleep.

“Hello!” “Who are you?” said all the Dwarfs at once.

Snow White bolted awake.  The Seven Dwarfs could tell she was as surprised as they were.  Soon they all relaxed and shared their stories.

Snow White told them all about her step-mother.  That her stepmother had tried to get the huntsman to kill her, that the huntsman had set her free in the woods, and that she could never go back home again.

“Stay here, with us,” said one of the Dwarfs.

“Thank you. That’s sweet,” said Snow White.  “But if I were to stay here at your home, I would have to do something for all of you.”

“You already cleaned up our place,” said another Dwarf.

”I agree” “Keeping the house clean will be easy,” said Snow White, “But there must be something else I can do for you,” said Snow White.

“Do you know how to read?” said another Dwarf.  "We have these books filled with wonderful tales and would love to be able to read them." I agree, I agree, I agree one by one all dwarfs agreed that Snow White would give them reading lessons.

To celebrate their new friendship, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs sang and danced the night away.

The next morning before they left for work, the Seven Dwarfs warned Snow White “Please, don`t open the door to anyone”.  After all, who knows what evil your stepmother might do?  The princess said “I agree”, and the Dwarfs left the house.

Back at the castle, the Queen marched up to her mirror.  “Mirror, mirror on the wall," she demanded.  "Who is the fairest of them all?”

“Snow White is the fairest of them all!” said the Magic Mirror.

“That’s impossible!” screamed the Queen.  “The girl is no longer alive!”

“Snow White lives!” said the Magic Mirror.  And an image was shown on the mirror of Snow White living in the cottage of the Seven Dwarfs.

The Queen turned red with rage.  She screamed, “She will not get away with this!”

At the cottage of the Dwarfs the next afternoon, when the Seven Dwarfs were away at work, there was a knock on the door.

“Who is it?” said Snow White.  She remembered the warning of the Seven Dwarfs not to open the door to anyone.

“Hello! It’s only a poor old woman,” came a squeaky voice, “selling apples.” Yet it was the evil Queen, disguised as an old woman.  “It’s raining out here, my dear,” said her voice through the door.  “Please let me in.”

“Poor thing," thought Snow White, "having to go door to door selling apples in the rain."  And so she opened the door.

“Take a look at this big red apple,” said the old woman. She held the red apple close to Snow White’s face.  “Lovely, my dear, isn’t it?”

“I would like very much to buy your apple,” said Snow White. “But I have no money.”

“That fine comb in your hair will make a good trade,” said the old woman.

“Well, all right then!” said Snow White.  She took the comb out of her hair and gave it to the old woman, who then gave her the apple.  “Thank you!” said Snow White and took a big bite. The fruit was poisoned!  At once, Snow White fell to the ground in a deep sleep.

“YES!” shouted the Queen!

Just then the door flew open.  In marched the Seven Dwarfs, home from the day's work.  Shocked indeed they were to find Snow White lying on the floor and what must be her stepmother beside her, laughing!

They chased that evil Queen out the door, and into the storm. Up to the very top of a mountain they chased her.  All of a sudden, lightning hit the mountain!  The Queen fell, and she was never seen again.

But there was nothing to help poor Snow White.  She stayed absolutely still in her deep sleep.  The Seven Dwarfs gently lifted her into a glass coffin.  Day and night they kept watch over her.

One day, the Prince happened to pass through.  Ever since he had learned that Snow White was missing at the castle, he was searching for her, far and wide.  Now he had finally found her, but in such a state! The Prince pulled open the glass coffin.  Her face seemed so fresh, even in that deep sleep.

He gently took one of Snow White's hands in his own and kissed it.  At once, Snow White’s eyes opened!  With Love's First Kiss, the evil Queen's spell was forever gone. Now nothing stood in the way for Snow White and the Prince to be together forever.  They returned to the kingdom and lived happily ever after.