

## Snow White

Once upon a time in the middle of winter, when the flakes of snow were falling like feathers from the sky, a queen sat at a window sewing, and the frame of the window was made of black ebony. And whilst she was sewing and looking out of the window at the snow, she pricked her finger with the needle, and three drops of blood fell upon the snow. And she thought to herself, "Would that I had a child as white as snow, as red as blood, and as black as the wood of the window-frame."

Soon after that she had a little daughter, and her hair was as black as ebony; and she was called Little Snow White. And when the child was born, the Queen died. After a year had passed, the King took another wife. She was proud and haughty. She had a wonderful looking glass, and, when she stood in front of it and said,

*"Looking glass, Looking glass,  
on the wall,*

*Who in this land is the fairest of all?"*

the looking glass answered,

*"Thou, O Queen, art the fairest of all!"*

Then she was satisfied, for the looking glass spoke the truth.

But when Snow White was seven years old she was as beautiful as the day. And once, when the Queen asked her looking-glass,

*"Looking glass, Looking glass,  
on the wall,*

*Who in this land is the fairest of all?"*

it answered,

*"Thou art fairer than all who are here,  
Lady Queen.*

*But more beautiful still is Snow White,  
as I ween."*

Then the Queen was shocked, and turned yellow and green with envy. From that hour, she hated Snow White so much. She called

a huntsman, and said, "Take the child away into the forest. Kill her, and bring me back her heart." The huntsman took her away; but when he had drawn his knife, she began to weep, and said, "Ah, dear huntsman, leave me my life!" And the huntsman had pity on her and said, "Run away, then, you poor child." He stabbed a young boar and cut out its heart and took it to the Queen.

Snow White ran and she saw a little cottage. Everything in the cottage was small. There was a table on which were seven little plates, seven little knives and forks, and mugs. Against the wall stood seven little beds. Little Snow White was so hungry that she ate some from each plate. Then she laid herself down and went to sleep.

When it was quite dark the owners of the cottage came back; they were seven dwarfs who dug and delved in the mountains for ore. They lit their seven candles, and they saw that someone had been there. But the seventh, when he looked at his bed, saw little Snow White lying asleep. And the dwarfs did not wake her up.

When it was morning, little Snow White awoke, and was frightened when she saw the seven dwarfs. But they were friendly.

"My name is Snow White." She told them that her stepmother had wished to have her killed, and that she had found their dwelling. The dwarfs said, "If you will take care of our house, you can stay with us." "Yes," said Snow White and she stayed with them. The girl was alone the whole day, so the good dwarfs said, "Beware of your stepmother; be sure to let no one come in."

But the Queen went to her looking glass and said,

*"Looking glass, Looking glass,  
on the wall,*

*Who in this land is the fairest of all?"*

and the glass answered,

*“Oh, Queen, thou art fairest of all I see,*

*But over the hills, where the  
seven dwarfs dwell,*

*Snow White is still alive and well,*

*And none is so fair as she.”*

Then she knew that little Snow White was still alive. And so she dressed herself like an old peddler woman. She went over the seven mountains to the seven dwarfs, and cried, “Pretty things to sell.” Snow White unbolted the door and bought the pretty laces. “Child,” said the old woman, “come, I will lace you properly for once.” But the old woman laced so tightly that Snow White lost her breath and fell down as if dead. “Now I am the most beautiful,” said the Queen to herself and ran away.

In the evening when the seven dwarfs came home, they cut the laces; then she came to life again. When the dwarfs heard what had happened they said, “The old peddler woman was the wicked Queen; let no one come in when we are not with you.”

But the wicked woman reached home and asked,

*“Looking glass, Looking glass,  
on the wall,*

*Who in this land is the fairest of all?”*

and it answered as before,

*“Snow White is still alive and well,*

*And none is so fair as she.”*

When she heard that, she made a poisonous comb. Then she disguised herself and went over the seven mountains to the seven dwarfs, knocked at the door, and cried, “Good things to sell,” and pulled the poisonous comb out and held it up. It pleased the girl so well that she opened the door. The old woman said, “Put the comb in your hair,” and the girl fell down senseless. The wicked woman said, “You are done for now,” and she went away.

When the seven dwarfs came home, they saw Snow White lying as if dead. They found the poisoned comb. Scarcely had they taken

it out when Snow White came to herself. Then they warned her once more to open the door to no one.

The Queen, at home, went in front of the glass and said,

*“Looking glass, Looking glass,  
on the wall,*

*Who in this land is the fairest of all?”*

*“Snow White is still alive and well,*

*And none is so fair as she.”*

“Snow White shall die!” she cried.

Thereupon she made a poisonous apple. When the apple was ready she dressed herself up as a country woman, and went over the seven mountains to the seven dwarfs. She knocked at the door. Snow White said, “I cannot let anyone in; the seven dwarfs have forbidden me.” “I shall soon get rid of my apples,” the woman answered. “There, I will give you one.”

“No,” said Snow White, “I dare not take anything.” “Are you afraid of poison?” said the old woman; “Look, I will cut the apple in two pieces.” Snow White stretched out her hand and hardly had she a bit of it in her mouth than she fell down dead. The dwarfs found Snow White lying upon the ground; she breathed no longer; the poor child was dead. They laid her upon a bier and wept three days long. They had a transparent coffin of glass made, and they laid her in it, and wrote her name upon it in golden letters, and that she was a king’s daughter.

It happened that a king’s son came into the forest, and saw the coffin on the mountain, and Snow White within it. Then he said to the dwarfs, “Let me have the coffin. I will honor her as my dearest possession.” The good dwarfs took pity upon him and gave him the coffin.

And now the King’s son had it carried away by his servants. They stumbled over a tree stump, and with the shock, the poisonous piece of apple came out of her throat. She opened her eyes. “Where am I?” she cried. The King’s son, full of joy, said, “You are with me,” and said, “I love you more than

everything in the world; come with me to my father's palace, you shall be my wife."

And Snow White was willing, and went with him, and their wedding was held with great show and splendor. But Snow White's wicked stepmother was also bidden to the feast. When she had arrayed herself in beautiful clothes, she went before the Looking glass, and said,

*"Looking glass, Looking glass,  
on the wall,*

*Who in this land is the fairest of all?"*

the glass answered,

*"Oh, Queen, of all here the fairest  
art thou,*

*But the young Queen is fairer  
by far as I trow."*

And when she went in, she knew Snow White; and she stood still with rage and fear, and could not stir. But iron slippers had already been put upon the fire, and they were brought in with tongs and set before her. Then she was forced to put on the red-hot shoes and dance until she dropped down dead.