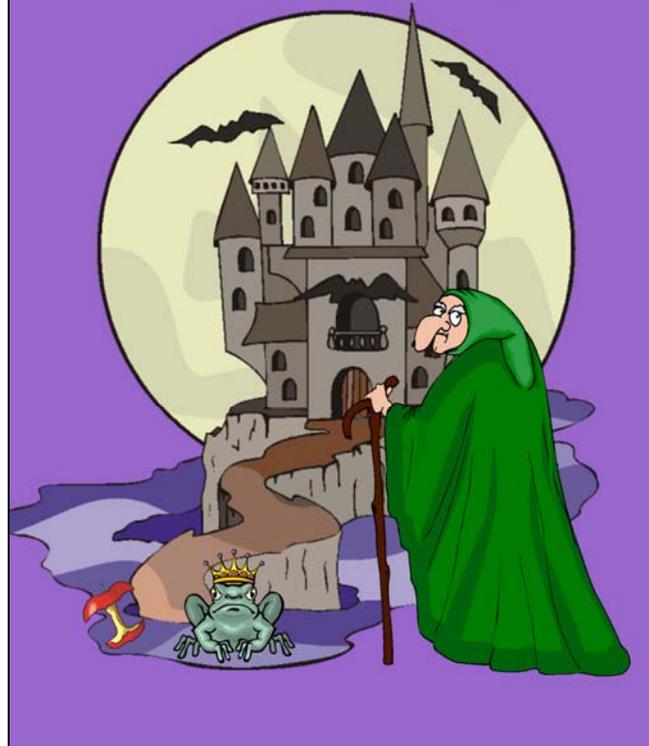


The Return of the Wicked Queen



Craig Sodaro

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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The Return of the Wicked Queen

COMEDY. In this sequel to “Snow White” it’s 20 years later, and the Magic Mirror reveals that the Wicked Queen is still alive but is powerless without her book of spells. Getting on in years, the villainously vain Wicked Queen needs a little more than horseradish and Botox treatments to restore her looks, so she kidnaps King Charming and demands that Snow White return the book of spells or she will turn King Charming into a toad. Snow White knows that if she turns over the book of spells, the Wicked Queen will unleash her evil powers on the kingdom of Ever After. Caught between a toad and a hard place, Snow White consults Cinderella, who encourages her to seek the help of the seven dwarves, but only Sassy and Grouchy arrive because the other dwarves are at a mining convention in Vegas. When a toad is delivered to the castle, Snow White thinks it’s King Charming, but the others are unconvinced. After all, sometimes a toad is just a toad! A hoppin’ hilarious Ever After extravaganza!

Performance Time: Approximately 75 minutes.

Characters

(4 M, 8 F, 5 flexible)

(With doubling: 4 M, 6 F, 3 flexible)

WICKED QUEEN: A vain villainess with a deep-seated personality disorder, a case of dangerous paranoia, and a deep love of horseradish and Botox; scraggly hair wears a black hooded cloak; female.

KRONI: Wicked Witch's crony; wears an old-fashioned bellboy outfit; male.

KING CHARMING: King of Ever After who is married to Snow White; male.

SNOW WHITE: Sweet, naïve queen of Ever After; female.

ELLA: Cinderella, Snow White's no-nonsense best friend; female.

EFFERVESA: Snow White's cookie-loving lady-in-waiting; female.

GROUCHY: A grouchy dwarf; one of the seven dwarves who saved Snow White from the Wicked Queen 20 years ago; flexible.

SASSY: A sassy dwarf; one of the seven dwarves who saved Snow White from the Wicked Queen 20 years ago; flexible.

PRINCESS LILY: Snow White and King Charming's teen daughter; female.

KYLE: Lily's teen boyfriend, a backup singer in a band who rides a motorcycle; wears a leather jacket and biker boots; male.

PRINCE CHESTER: Snow White and King Charming's nerdy teen son (aka "RoyalHunkNoBunk"), who loves to play "Dragons and Danger" and has never had a girlfriend; male.

PETUNIA GINGERSNAP: One of Prince Chester's dates; a model looking for her big break who is masquerading as a princess; female.

PRINCESS PRUDENCE: One of Prince Chester's dates, the Princess of Paragola, who Sassy and Grouchy think is the Wicked Queen; female.

PRINCESS PERSEPHONE: One of Prince Chester's dates; a princess who loves to play videogames (aka "Ethelonk, Queen of Zonk"); female.

PAPA RAZZI: A photographer who takes pictures of high-profile people and royals; carries around a large camera; flexible.

GUARD: Sleepy, lazy palace guard who doesn't like to leave the palace; flexible.

MAGIC MIRROR: Voiceover; flexible.

FROG: Voiceover; flexible.

Options for Doubling

PAPA RAZI/GUARD (flexible)

PETUNIA/PRUDENCE/PERSEPHONE (female)

MAGIC MIRROR/FROG (flexible)

Setting

Kingdom of Ever After.

Sets

Sets may be as simple or elaborate as your budget allows. Several scenes may place before the curtain or on a bare stage, if desired.

Castle throne room. There are two elaborate thrones with a bench on each side and a small table between the thrones.

Cave. There is a backdrop of a cave and a tree stump large enough to sit on.

Exterior of the Wicked Queen's cottage. A backdrop may be used.

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1: Throne room, late afternoon.

Scene 2: Before the curtain. A path in the woods, the next morning.

Scene 3: Throne room, later that day.

Scene 4: Before the curtain. A cave, later that day.

Scene 5: Throne room, several hours later.

Intermission, opt.

ACT II

Scene 1: Before the curtain. Outside the cottage of the Wicked Queen, that evening.

Scene 2: Throne room, a short time later.

Scene 3: Before the curtain. A path in the woods, an hour later.

Scene 4: Throne room, shortly before midnight.

Props

Cell phone, for Chester	Press badge, for Papa Razzi
Cell phone, for Snow White	Cell phone, for Ella
Heavily taped cardboard box with "He who opens this box is cursed" written on the top	Broom
Elaborate hand mirror with edge that lights up	Tray
Old book entitled, "Wicked Spells for Dummies"	Toad (plastic)
Large cookies	Glass of water
Camera	Piece of paper
Cell phone, for Prince Charming	Scroll
Basket of apples	Hoe
Scrabble	Beautifully decorated box
Hourglass	Large rubber toad
Ball and ankle chain	Large burlap bag
Plate of food covered with an old rag	Cell phone, for Chester
Cell phone, for Queen	2 Bags of sandwiches
2 Handkerchiefs	Binoculars
Tea tray	Scout outfit, for Kroni
	Backpack
	Box of cookies labeled "Minty Thinnies"
	Old stuffed cat in a bag
	Silk scarf or sash
	Bag of cookies

Sound Effects

Phone ringing	Lightning
Loud noise	Croaking, opt.
Thunder	Meow

“I hate to bring you all the blues,
But her demise is just fake news.”

—Magic Mirror

ACT I

Scene 1

(AT RISE: *Ever After Castle, throne room. There are two elaborate thrones with a bench on each side and a small table between the thrones. Chester is sprawled out on one of the thrones, playing a game on his phone. Pause. Lily enters SL.*)

LILY: (To Chester.) Well, if it isn't Mr. Get-Up-And-Go!

(*Chester sits up, embarrassed.*) What're you doing, Chester?

CHESTER: *Prince* Chester to you, Lily.

LILY: *Princess* Lily to you. (*Slight pause.*) So?

CHESTER: So, what?

LILY: So what are you doing sprawling on Dad's throne?

CHESTER: Well, just...just...seeing how it fits.

LILY: (*Laughs.*) Why? You think Dad's going to abdicate and turn the kingdom of Ever After over to you?

CHESTER: Not anytime soon.

LILY: You're barely out of high school, don't have a job, never had a girlfriend...what kind of king would you be?

CHESTER: (*Lying.*) I...I have a girlfriend.

LILY: Who?

CHESTER: (*Lying.*) I...I'm not telling you.

LILY: You're lying!

CHESTER: My girlfriend is Princess Marabelle.

LILY: Marabelle? She lives 3,000 miles away. You haven't seen her since you were six.

CHESTER: We've had a...a...long-distance relationship.

LILY: Yeah, awfully long!

CHESTER: We text all the time.

LILY: You are such a liar!

CHESTER: I am not. She texted this morning. Look!

(*Chester hands Lily his phone.*)

The Return of the Wicked Queen

II

LILY: *(Reads.)* "Hi, Chess." *(To Chester, sarcastically.)* Chess?
(Reads.) "Just got back from the gym. Great workout. Here's the recipe you want for kale smoothie with chia seeds." *(To Chester, sarcastic.)* Oh, that's romantic!

CHESTER: I suppose you got someone better on your radar?

LILY: *(Coyly.)* Maybe...

CHESTER: What does that mean?

LILY: Means I'll never tell you!

(Snow White enters SR, talking on her phone.)

SNOW WHITE: *(Into phone.)* Oh, Charming, I miss you so! I know the Gee Wiz Summit is really important, but I miss having you right here on your throne. Yes, I'll tell them, honey...And, yes, I haven't bought an apple from anybody, especially a little old lady. All right, here's a big kiss for you. *(Makes loud kissing sound.)* Bye, bye! *(Hangs up.)*

LILY: Gee, Mom, do you have to be so gross?

SNOW WHITE: Gross? Lily, I love your dad. He's got a difficult day of delicate trade negotiations ahead of him and a nice, loud kiss is just what he needs.

LILY: You sounded like a mule pulling its hooves out of a mud hole.

CHESTER: So, Mom, now that we're almost adults, how about telling us the truth.

SNOW WHITE: Why, Chester, honey, I've always told you the truth.

CHESTER: Did you really take an apple from that old lady?

SNOW WHITE: *(Embarrassed.)* Well, I was...I was practically a kid! And she looked so sweet and forlorn...

LILY: Did you really fall asleep?

SNOW WHITE: I don't know. The next thing I knew, your father was kissing me...and I was in the middle of the forest...and all my little friends were gathered around.

LILY: Yeah, like anybody really believes that! You met Dad clubbing, right?

SNOW WHITE: Lily, how I met your father isn't a conspiracy theory. It really happened just like I told you. I took a bite of an apple, fell into a deep, deep sleep, and woke up when your father kissed me. I know it sounds like a Hallmark movie, but that's what happened.

LILY: (*Unconvinced.*) Well, call me a skeptic. I mean, all this happened because some wicked queen found out you were more beautiful than her?

SNOW WHITE: (*Insulted.*) What's so unbelievable about that?

LILY: C'mon, Mom, I love you, but you aren't exactly [Beyoncé]. [*Or insert another female star.*]

SNOW WHITE: That was almost 20 years ago. Back then, I could hold my own against anybody.

LILY: Okay, okay...but you lose me on the magic mirror bit.

CHESTER: That's my favorite part!

LILY: You are such a weirdo! There's no such thing as a magic mirror.

SNOW WHITE: There is! I mean there *was*.

LILY: You said "is"!

SNOW WHITE: "Was."

LILY: "Is"!

SNOW WHITE: (*Appealingly.*) Chester?

CHESTER: Sorry, Mom. "Is."

LILY: (*To Snow.*) So where is this magic mirror?

SNOW WHITE: (*Nervously.*) I...I don't know.

LILY: You're lying.

SNOW WHITE: I am not!

CHESTER: Mom, your ears always turn red when you lie. Your ears look like tomatoes.

SNOW WHITE: Stupid ears! You won't let this go, will you?

LILY: Not on your life!

SNOW WHITE: (*Calls.*) Effervesa!

(*Effervesa enters SR.*)

EFFERVESA: Yes, Your Majesty. I am at your service. What can this worthless servant do to make your life easier?

SNOW WHITE: Effie, cut the blarney!

EFFERVESA: Okay, what do you want?

SNOW WHITE: Would you fetch the royal cardboard box?

EFFERVESA: Which royal cardboard box?

SNOW WHITE: The only one on the top shelf of my royal closet.

EFFERVESA: (*Suspiciously.*) You sure you want that royal cardboard box?

SNOW WHITE: I'm sure.

EFFERVESA: I remember you telling me a long time ago that nobody...nobody's to ever look in there.

SNOW WHITE: Fetch the royal cardboard box.

EFFERVESA: I hope this doesn't turn into a royal mess! (*Exits SR.*)

SNOW WHITE: (*To Chester and Lily.*) She's so loyal, but such a pain!

CHESTER: Dad's got a lot of meetings today?

SNOW WHITE: Yes, the president of Rumpleslovia wants to slap tariffs on all the goods we ship there. And we'll put a tariff on everything that comes from Rumpleslovia. Everything will cost more.

CHESTER: Even those triple-chocolate éclairs they make?

LILY: You would think of that!

SNOW WHITE: Well, knowing how charming your father can be, he'll see to it Rumpleslovia forgets all about nasty tariffs.

(*Effervesa enters, carrying a heavily taped cardboard box.*)

EFFERVESA: (*Indicating box.*) This the one?

SNOW WHITE: What does it say on top?

EFFERVESA: (*Reads.*) "He who opens this box is cursed!"

CHESTER: Mom, maybe you ought to just forget about it.

SNOW WHITE: No, I don't want Lily questioning her own family history.

LILY: Besides, it can't be so scary if you just hid it on the top shelf of your closet, right?

EFFERVESA: The *royal* closet.

LILY: *(To Snow White.)* And it says *he* will be cursed, so if a *she* opens it, nothing will happen, right?

SNOW WHITE: *(Glancing nervously at Effervesca.)* Well, here goes...

(Snow struggles to remove the tape. Effervesca takes over and quickly rips off the tape. Snow opens the box.)

EFFERVESA: *(Peeking inside box, coughing from dust.)* Oh, my! I better go get the Dustbuster.

SNOW WHITE: No, it's okay. Look! Here's the mirror. *(Pulls out an elaborate hand mirror from the box.)*

LILY: *(Laughs.)* That's it? That's the magic mirror?

SNOW WHITE: It's the one the Wicked Queen dropped just outside the cottage where I was hiding. Let's see... *(Looking at it closely.)* It turns on right here. *(Pushes a button and the mirror's edge lights up.)*

CHESTER: Cool!

EFFERVESA: Those must be some kind of batteries to last all these years.

LILY: *(Sarcastically.)* They're magic batteries.

SNOW WHITE: Mirror, Mirror, are you still there?

MIRROR: *(Voiceover.)* Where else would I be? You kept me locked up in a cheap cardboard box for 20 years!

LILY: *(To Mirror.)* Hey! You're talking to a *queen*!

MIRROR: *(Voiceover, sarcastically.)* Well, excuse me!

CHESTER: Don't mind Lily. She's the resident grouch.

LILY: I am not!

CHESTER: She's just a princess, anyway.

LILY: Look, Mirror, just do your thing, okay?

MIRROR: *(Voiceover.)* What thing?

LILY: You know, answer questions!

MIRROR: *(Voiceover.)* What questions?

CHESTER: How about the one we always hear about?
"Mirror, mirror, in my hand,
Who is the fairest in the land?"

MIRROR: (*Voiceover.*)

Oh, Prince, my magic is all too strong,
To ask that question would be wrong.

SNOW WHITE: Why? What do you mean?

LILY: Told you! It's a fake. You've got a hidden recorder
with prerecorded lines.

CHESTER: I dunno. It sounds awfully creepy to me. How'd
it know I asked the question?

MIRROR: (*Voiceover.*)

Creepy 'tis true, for once you ask,
You'll be faced with a difficult task.

LILY: What task?

MIRROR: (*Voiceover.*)

My previous mistress, the queen of the night,
Will hear my answer wrong or right.

SNOW WHITE: No! No! She won't hear anything, faithful
mirror. Alas, she met her end when she plunged into the
bottomless abyss as my little friends chased her up the
mountain.

CHESTER: That's right, isn't it, Magic Mirror?

MIRROR: (*Voiceover.*)

I hate to bring you all the blues,
But her demise is just fake news.

SNOW WHITE: What?

LILY: Gosh, is that Wicked Queen a cat with nine lives?

MIRROR: (*Voiceover.*)

Her faithful vulture grabbed her hood,
And whisked her off as best he could.

CHESTER: What a birdbrain!

SNOW WHITE: Well, wherever she is, she hasn't bothered
anyone in Ever After for 20 years. Perhaps the horror of
falling so far helped her see the error of her ways and she's
now reformed and helps everybody out.

LILY: Mom, do you really believe that?

SNOW WHITE: No.

CHESTER: Well, you know she turned into an old lady when she gave you that apple, right?

SNOW WHITE: Very, very, very, very, very, very old.

QUEEN: (*Offstage, shouts.*) Hey! Lay off the "old"!

CHESTER: Who said that?

LILY: You, Mirror, you still on her payroll?

MIRROR: (*Voiceover.*)

As I've said before and shown,

I'm not a sycophant to buy and own.

LILY: So tell us where the Wicked Queen is.

MIRROR: (*Voiceover.*)

I cannot, for she's out of view.

Forget her is my advice to you!

SNOW WHITE: And that's just what we're going to do. You, Magic Mirror, are going back in this box with the rest of her junk.

(*Chester pulls out an old book from the box.*)

CHESTER: Wait a second! (*Indicating book.*) What's this?

SNOW WHITE: A book they found in her dungeon.

LILY: Gross! It's probably full of cooties!

CHESTER: Mom, do you know what this book is? (*Reads cover.*) "Wicked Spells for Dummies"!

(*Snow snatches the book away from Chester.*)

SNOW WHITE: Can we stop talking about all this? I'm sure if the Wicked Queen is still around, she isn't about to prance in here and want her old kingdom back all of a sudden. (*Calls.*) Effervesa! Effervesa!

(*Snow puts the book and mirror into the box. Effervesa enters SR, eating a large cookie.*)

EFFERVESA: Oh, Your Majesty, are you in for a treat! Cook has whipped up the most delicious macadamia white chocolate-chip cookies that are to die for!

SNOW WHITE: Be sure to leave a few for us.

EFFERVESA: Oh, silly, of course! There's plenty!

SNOW WHITE: Then would you take this box and put it back on the top shelf of the royal closet?

EFFERVESA: Your royal wish is my humble command.
(Takes the box and exits SR.)

LILY: Mother, don't you think Effervesca is a bit...well...*casual* for a lady-in-waiting?

SNOW WHITE: You would be too, if you'd been waiting as long as she has.

(Carrying a camera, Papa Razzi enters SL.)

PAPA RAZZI: Your Majesty! Smile!

SNOW WHITE: Oh, no!

PAPA RAZZI: Smile! *(Snaps a picture.)* Now, how about a nice candid? Royal family having fun?

SNOW WHITE: I don't have any time right now, Papa Razzi. I've got a meeting with the Midnight Ball Committee.

PAPA RAZZI: C'mon, just gimme a little something! I'm dying for a story!

SNOW WHITE: The door, Papa Razzi, is that way. *(Points.)* Find it, or the guards will show it to you! *(Exits SR.)*

PAPA RAZZI: *(Hopeful.)* I don't suppose you kids have anything for me.

LILY: I had a dream that you were eaten by a great white shark! Ta-ta! *(Exits SL.)*

PAPA RAZZI: Women can be so cruel.

CHESTER: But nothing like the Wicked Queen.

PAPA RAZZI: Oh, c'mon! That old chestnut's been out of the picture for 20 years.

CHESTER: Yeah? Well, the Magic Mirror says otherwise. She's alive and kicking.

PAPA RAZZI: (*Excitedly, shouts.*) Alive? Kicking?! Stop the presses! Have I got a scoop! (*Races off SR.*)

CHESTER: (*To himself.*) Oh, boy! Me and my big mouth! (*Phone rings. Looks at phone.*) Oh, wow! A RoyalMatch.com message. Hmmmm...let's see who's looking at my profile... (*Reads.*) "Hello, tall, dark, and handsome. I like what I read and what I see. I love a man who can scale El Capitan with one hand. (*Reads.*) I am really, really eager to meet you, Your Majesty. Us royals gotta stick together!" (*To himself.*) Hmmmm...let's take a look at her profile. Wow! She looks incredible! She's from the House of Blurbick-Carlton and her father rules the Duchy of Duxemburg. She went to Duxemburg Elementary, then middle school and eventually got her high school G.E.D. while she was working as a model. Her favorite things are her eyes, her hair, her kittens, and me! Me! Wow! (*Texts.*) "Hi, Princess Petunia, you sound like my cup of tea. Stop by the palace tomorrow sometime, and let's see if we click." (*To himself.*) Hmmmm...too pushy? Not pushy enough? Naaah! Just right!

(*Chester sends the text. Snow enters SR.*)

SNOW WHITE: Chester, what are you doing?

CHESTER: (*Shocked, almost dropping his phone.*) Oh, oh, nothing!

SNOW WHITE: That's an awfully jumpy *nothing*.

CHESTER: Okay, it's...it's all this Wicked Queen stuff.

SNOW WHITE: Now, don't you give her another thought. Even if she's still around, she's probably in a kingdom far, far away. Here, can you help me with this app? I want to double our security watch.

CHESTER: How come? You just said the Wicked Queen's nothing to be afraid of!

(*Blackout. Curtain.*)

Scene 2

(AT RISE: Before the curtain. A path in the woods, the next morning. Charming enters SL, talking on his phone.)

CHARMING: *(Into phone.)* Hey, Lily, it's Dad...Yeah, Mr. King Charming, at your service. Mom around?...Sure, I'll hang on...Hey, Snow, how's it going? I just saw the bit in the Ever After Gazette. Papa Razzi says the Wicked Queen is still kicking up her heels. Is he just making that up or what?...Uh-oh, you're sure? But why let 20 years go by?...Okay, well, I was just a bit worried. You can never tell when Papa Razzi is onto something or just making stuff up. See you tomorrow when this Gee Wiz thing is over. Bye!

(Charming hangs up. Wicked Queen enters SR, carrying a basket of apples. She looks like an old woman and is wearing a black hooded cloak.)

QUEEN: Oh, hello, young man.

CHARMING: Hello.

QUEEN: I seem to have lost my way.

CHARMING: What way are you supposed to be going?

QUEEN: The long way to Tipperary.

CHARMING: I think Tipperary is that way. *(Points SL.)*

QUEEN: You're sure?

CHARMING: Let me check my GPS. *(Fiddles with his phone.)*

QUEEN: *(Sighs.)* Isn't it wonderful what technology can do these days? There was a time when you had to use a map, and the worst part was trying to fold the silly thing back up the right way.

CHARMING: *(Indicating phone.)* Yup, GPS says Tipperary is five miles thataway. *(Points SL.)*

QUEEN: Well, thank you, kind sir. And to show you my appreciation, here's a nice, juicy apple to hold you over till dinner.

(Wicked Queen hands Charming an apple.)

CHARMING: Golly, that's mighty kind of you, ma'am. I could sure use a bite right about now. *(Takes a bite of the apple. His eyes widen as he looks at the audience.)* Uh-oh!

(Charming falls to the floor. Queen laughs wickedly.)

QUEEN: So, King Charming, an apple a day makes things go my way! *(Calls.)* Kroni! Kroni!

(Kroni enters SR and sees Charming.)

KRONI: Oh, like, wow! What'd you do, Your Hideousness?

QUEEN: *(Acting innocent.)* Me? I didn't do a thing. I just gave the poor man an apple, and he must have had some kind of allergic reaction. Imagine, after a tiny little bite...

KRONI: I got some Benadryl.

QUEEN: Let's not bother with that. He's out for a good long time... *(Under her breath.)* ...just like I've planned.

KRONI: We gonna leave him lying here?

QUEEN: No... *(Under her breath.)* ...someone might help him. Let's get him to the dungeon.

KRONI: The dungeon?! Really?! My lucky day!

QUEEN: Yes, my fiendish friend. I've got that old-time wickedness creeping through my veins! *(Laughs wickedly as lights fade to black.)*

Scene 3

(AT RISE: The palace throne room, later that day. Snow and Ella are playing Scrabble on a table between the thrones. There is an hourglass on the table.)

ELLA: I'm so glad you asked me over, Snow. Once Upon a Time can be a bit boring after a while, especially when my own King Charming is at the Gee Wiz Summit, too.

SNOW WHITE: I know what you mean. But I had an ulterior motive for inviting you, Ella.

ELLA: (Looking at her Scrabble letters.) "Motive"! Oh my gosh, it fits perfectly!

SNOW WHITE: Where?

ELLA: I can use the "e" in "revenge."

SNOW WHITE: Aren't you clever!

ELLA: (Putting her Scrabble tiles down.) Don't tell me you haven't been thinking about it.

SNOW WHITE: Thinking about what?

ELLA: Revenge, silly.

SNOW WHITE: Well, that's kind of why I invited you over.

ELLA: Your ulterior motive. (Indicating game.) Your turn.

SNOW WHITE: Hmm...how about "mother." I can use the "m" in "motive."

ELLA: (Disappointed.) And that's a double word score.

SNOW WHITE: Sorry.

ELLA: Don't be sorry. Play to win. You know your problem, Snow? You're too sweet. You trust everybody.

SNOW WHITE: I can't help it. And...and...

ELLA: Let me guess... (Reads letters as she lays down the tiles.) "Q-U-E-E-N."

SNOW WHITE: The Wicked Queen. Somehow Papa Razzi found out I brought the Magic Mirror out of hiding so I could prove to Lily that I wasn't making it all up, and...and...he blabbed it all over the kingdom!

ELLA: She's dead, Snow.

SNOW WHITE: But what if she isn't?

ELLA: Then where's she been for the past 20 years?

SNOW WHITE: I know it sounds impossible, but what if her pet vulture flew down and caught her when she fell.

ELLA: I think your little friends just made all that up about her falling. I think they buried her in their diamond mine. After all, you were out like a light and never saw what happened, right?

SNOW WHITE: I know, I know. But, still...

ELLA: Look, I had kind of the same problem.

SNOW WHITE: (*Laying down tiles, spells.*) "S-I-S-T-E-R-S."

ELLA: Sisters! You can say that again. They nagged Charming and me for a couple of months after the wedding, saying they were sorry, couldn't they come live in the palace, blah, blah, blah.

SNOW WHITE: What'd you do?

ELLA: We bought them each a one-way ticket to Siberia with enough money to open an ice hotel.

SNOW WHITE: Did it work?

ELLA: So far. They're either very successful or they're ice cubes.

(*A loud noise is heard off SL.*)

SNOW WHITE: What's going on?

(*Effervesa runs on SL.*)

EFFERVESA: An intruder, Your Majesty!

SNOW WHITE: Oh, no! Not the Wicked Queen!

EFFERVESA: Not unless she's turned herself into a biker dude with an attitude!

(*Kyle enters SL, wearing a leather jacket and biker boots.*)

KYLE: I ain't no intruder, ladies, and I sure ain't wicked.

SNOW WHITE: Who are you?

KYLE: The name's Kyle...rhymes with "style."

SNOW WHITE: Kyle who?

KYLE: Kyle Blumstead, at your service.

EFFERVESA: Lemme see your I.D., Kyle Blumstead.

KYLE: What is this? You're not the TSA, are you?

SNOW WHITE: Show the lady your I.D.

KYLE: All right, all right, don't get bent out of shape.

ELLA: *(Correcting.)* Your Majesty!

KYLE: Don't get bent out of shape, Your Majesty. Here.

(Kyle hands Effervesca his I.D.)

EFFERVESA: *(To Snow.)* He's Kyle Blumstead, all right. All of 16.

SNOW WHITE: Good. You're way too young.

KYLE: *(Insulted.)* Too young?! I got my driver's license this morning!

(Lily enters SR.)

LILY: Kyle!

KYLE: Hey, Lily! Lookin' good, girl!

LILY: What're you doing here?

SNOW WHITE: *(Surprised.)* You know this young man, Lily?

LILY: Well...

KYLE: *(To Snow.)* Lily's my main squeeze.

LILY: *(Annoyed.)* Your *only* squeeze, Kyle. Why didn't you just throw a stone at my window and climb up the vine like I told you?

KYLE: I did!

ELLA: So romantic!

LILY: *(To Kyle.)* Fourth window on the left side of the eighth tower?

KYLE: Shoot! I thought you said eighth window on the left side of the fourth tower.

SNOW WHITE: Well, Kyle Blumstead, what do you want?

KYLE: To take Lily for a spin on my bike.

LILY: (*Excitedly.*) You got it? You finally got your license?!

KYLE: Third time's the charm.

LILY: Can I go, Mom? (*Realizes.*) I mean, Your Majesty?

SNOW WHITE: Oh, Lily, I'm not sure...

LILY: Oh, okay. I'll just text Daddy. He's the king, and I can go if he says so. (*Moves downstage to text.*)

ELLA: Oh, Snow, Charming and I have been through this very scenario with Phillip and Darcy.

SNOW WHITE: How did you manage?

ELLA: At first, we thought of the Rapunzel thing, you know, lock 'em in a tower until they are 25 or so, but then we decided it's better to chill out a bit and see things from their perspective.

SNOW WHITE: (*To Lily.*) What did your father say?

LILY: Funny...he didn't text back. He always texts me back.

SNOW WHITE: Well, Lily... (*Clears her throat.*) ...you and Mr. Blumstead—

LILY: (*Corrects, dreamily.*) Kyle.

SNOW WHITE: You and Kyle can go for a one-hour spin. Then I want you back here to finish your homework. (*Turns hourglass over.*)

KYLE: Homework, what a drag!

LILY: (*Shoots Kyle a warning look.*) I love homework, Kyle, remember? And we are most grateful, Your Majesty. (*Curtsies and then kicks Kyle. To Kyle.*) Bow! (*Kyle bows.*) Bye, Cinderella.

KYLE: (*As they exit.*) That's really Cinderella?

LILY: Yes!

KYLE: I sure didn't see any glass slippers.

(*Lily and Kyle exit SL.*)

SNOW WHITE: *(To Ella.)* I guess I should have introduced you.

ELLA: It's okay. I've had to put up with that glass slipper nonsense for years. Who in their right mind would tromp around in glass slippers at a ball...at night, no less?

SNOW WHITE: So what were you wearing that night?

ELLA: A pair of [Jimmy Choo] stilettos, but my biographer mixed that as way too over the top. *[Or insert another shoe brand.]*

SNOW WHITE: No wonder Charming wanted to find you.

ELLA: Yeah, I had the other shoe, and they needed a pair to sell and balance the country's budget.

(Ella and Snow laugh.)

SNOW WHITE: *(Chuckling.)* You're impossible!

(Chester enters SR.)

CHESTER: *(Nervously.)* Oh, hi.

ELLA: Well, Chester, aren't you getting tall!

CHESTER: Yeah, I guess.

ELLA: Starting college soon?

CHESTER: Yeah, King's College.

ELLA: What's your major?

CHESTER: How to rule a kingdom, I guess.

SNOW WHITE: *(To Ella.)* Chester really wanted to major in computer technology, but he will be king someday, so he's going to be practical, right, Chester?

ELLA: Oh, how quickly you've all grown up!

CHESTER: Ah, Mom...it's three o'clock.

SNOW WHITE: *(Picking up hourglass.)* So it is! Sorry, hon. We'll have to finish our Scrabble game later, Ella. *(Coyly.)*

Chester's got a friend coming over and he wants to show off.

CHESTER: *(Embarrassed.)* Mom!

ELLA: Who wouldn't! This is the best room in the palace, so show it off!

SNOW WHITE: C'mon upstairs. I want you to see some pictures I took when we visited Hansel and Gretel last year.

ELLA: I bet they've grown up.

SNOW WHITE: They have, and you couldn't find two happier siblings. But to be honest, living in that gingerbread house...they've packed on a few pounds. They get hungry, and they just eat part of a wall.

(Snow and Ella exit SR. Effervesca enters SL, eating a cookie.)

EFFERVESA: My, but these [snickerdoodles] are delish! *(Sees Chester.)* Oh, good, Prince Chester, you're here. Got a lady downstairs who says she's come to see you. She says she's a princess. *[Or insert another type of cookie.]*

CHESTER: *(Trying to look nonchalant.)* Oh, okay. Sounds good.

EFFERVESA: Better watch out, Chester, she's got that look in her eye. *(Exits SL.)*

CHESTER: *(To himself, nervous.)* Look? What kind of look?

(Chester fusses with his hair, checks his breath, straightens his shirt, etc. Petunia enters SL.)

PETUNIA: Well, well, well. You're "RoyalHunkNoBunk"?

CHESTER: *(Embarrassed.)* Yeah...I...I...I guess I exaggerated a bit.

PETUNIA: *(Awed by surroundings.)* This is where you live?

CHESTER: Yeah. I wasn't lying about the royal part.

PETUNIA: *(Looking around, impressed.)* Nice. Very nice. So what's your real name, royal hunk?

CHESTER: Chester.

PETUNIA: What makes you royal?

CHESTER: My dad's the king.

PETUNIA: *(Impressed.)* The king? King Charming?

CHESTER: Don't hold it against me.

PETUNIA: Why would I do that?

CHESTER: I don't know. You might not like his economic outlook, his foreign policy, his stance on—

PETUNIA: *(Laughing.)* I don't care about any of those things, Prince Chester.

CHESTER: Chester's okay.

PETUNIA: And I'm Petunia, okay?

CHESTER: Sure. Petunia.

PETUNIA: I like your dad, but I love your mom. She's been an inspiration to me all my life. I can't believe how she fought that wicked queen and spent all those months in a glass coffin until your dad rode up and kissed her. That's, like, so romantic! *(Moving closer to Chester.)* Are you romantic, Chester?

CHESTER: *(Stepping back.)* I dunno...

PETUNIA: *(Moving closer.)* I think you've got real potential.

CHESTER: Potential for what?

PETUNIA: To be the man of my dreams.

CHESTER: *(Gulping.)* Oh, yeah?

PETUNIA: Oh, yeah. *(Moves behind him.)* You're pretty inspiring yourself.

(Petunia starts massaging Chester's shoulders.)

CHESTER: What are you doing?

PETUNIA: Just loosening up your shoulder muscles.

CHESTER: *(Moving away from her.)* They're loose enough. If they get any looser, my head will fall off.

PETUNIA: Relax! You know what they say: "The road of life is so much easier when you travel it with the right woman."

CHESTER: Do you know any?

PETUNIA: Any what?

CHESTER: Right women?

PETUNIA: *(Insulted.)* What do you think I am?

CHESTER: Princess Petunia, right?

PETUNIA: Yeah, and I'm a gal who can make you so happy you'll think you're on cloud nine.

CHESTER: I'd be happy just getting to level five.

PETUNIA: Level five?

CHESTER: Yeah. You said you like Dragons and Danger, right?

PETUNIA: Huh? Oh, yeah...yeah, I like dragons, especially the kind that breathe fire. And danger! I'm up for hot-air balloon rides, skiing off-trail, and pearl diving without a tank.

CHESTER: I was thinking more of the game, Dragons and Danger.

PETUNIA: That's for nerds, Chester, and you're no nerd.

CHESTER: Yes, I am!

PETUNIA: You're RoyalHunkNoBunk!

CHESTER: I exaggerated, remember?

PETUNIA: Look, I'll be honest, too. I said I'm Princess Petunia, but you know what? I'm not a princess. I'm Petunia Gingersnap, and I'm a model looking for my big break. *(Sighs.)* But this sure isn't it.

CHESTER: Gee, a model! Really?

PETUNIA: Yeah, I've done two commercials, A [TJ Maxx] ad, and I was the Dingaling Girl at the auto show. *[Or insert the name of another suitable store.]*

CHESTER: What's a Dingaling Girl?

PETUNIA: I rang a bell every time somebody bought a car.

CHESTER: Wow!

PETUNIA: It wasn't that exciting. Living here...being a real princess would be exciting. But, gosh, I think your dad's charm skipped a generation. See you, Chester. I hope you make it to level five.

(Petunia exits SR. Disheartened, Chester sits on a throne. Snow and Ella enter SL.)

SNOW WHITE: Chester, did your friend arrive?

CHESTER: Yeah.

ELLA: Was she impressed?

CHESTER: She liked the room but not the guy in it. Mom, does stuff like charm skip a generation?

SNOW WHITE: Oh, Chester, I don't know...but I do know that, to the right girl, you'll be as charming as your father.

CHESTER: Maybe I ought to grow a beard or something.
(Exits SL.)

SNOW WHITE: *(To Ella.)* Oh, poor Chester. Actually, I'm surprised he even asked a girl over. I wonder where he met her.

ELLA: Probably online.

SNOW WHITE: Online, really?

ELLA: Loads of people meet online. Our Phillip met one of his girlfriends, Shanna, online, and they were fine until he found out she has six cats and he's allergic to cats.

(Effervesa enters SR, eating a cookie.)

EFFERVESA: Sorry to butt in again, Your Majesty, but there's a person at the drawbridge who says he has a message for you.

SNOW WHITE: What kind of message?

EFFERVESA: You won't believe this, but a singing message.

SNOW WHITE: *(Excitedly.)* I bet it's from Charming!

ELLA: *(Sighs.)* Ever the romantic.

SNOW WHITE: Show the messenger in, Effie.

EFFERVESA: Don't say I didn't warn you. Cookie, anyone?
(Exits SR.)

SNOW WHITE: I wonder what she meant by that.

ELLA: Maybe he sings off-key.

(Kroni enters, wearing an old-fashioned bellboy outfit.)

KRONI: Afternoon, Your Majesty.

SNOW WHITE: Good afternoon. And who are you?

KRONI: Name's not important, but the message is.

SNOW WHITE: Who's the message from?

KRONI: From someone you know who means a lot to you.

SNOW WHITE: *(To Ella.)* It's from Charming!

(Kroni removes a paper from his pocket.)

KRONI: Ready?

SNOW WHITE: Ah-ha.

KRONI: *(To the tune of "Happy Birthday," sings poorly.)*

"Prince Charming is mine...

Don't run out of time.

I want the book back...

Or he'll be a swine." *(Happily bows several times.)*

SNOW WHITE: Oh, no!

ELLA: *(To Kroni.)* Who sent this?

KRONI: Here you go... *(Hands Ella the paper.)* ...signed,
sealed, and delivered. Ciao, baby! *(Exits SR.)*

SNOW WHITE: *(To Ella.)* Who sent this awful message?

ELLA: *(Reads.)* "Your friend, the Wicked Queen"!

(Blackout. Curtain.)

Scene 4

(Before the curtain. A cave, later that day. Charming is sitting on a small tree stump. He is wearing a ball and chain on his ankle. Charming combs his hair and primps a bit. Kroni enters SR, carrying a plate of food covered with an old rag.)

KRONI: Lunchtime, Charming. Hungry?

CHARMING: I say, nice of you to serve as a waiter. What's on the menu?

KRONI: *(Whipping off the dirty rag.)* Sardine sandwich, sour cherries, and dandelion salad.

CHARMING: *(Horrorified, gulps.)* Mmmmm...my favorites...?

(Charming gingerly takes the plate from Kroni. He eats very carefully, making faces.)

KRONI: You're kidding, right? Just part of being charming, right? I wouldn't eat that stuff no matter what, no how!

CHARMING: But the Wicked Queen obviously went to a lot of trouble to make me feel at home.

KRONI: This is home? It's a closet. We usually keep brooms and mops in here.

CHARMING: *(Realizes.)* That's why there's such a nice, clean fragrance.

KRONI: It stinks in here! You know, Charming, what she's doing to you, don't you?

CHARMING: Of course. Holding me captive.

KRONI: Nah, she's testing your charm. She doesn't believe anybody could be as nice as you.

CHARMING: I know lots of nice people, and I know the Wicked Queen is really nice...deep down, of course.

KRONI: Yeah, deep, deep, deep down so not a drop of it oozes to the surface.

CHARMING: I don't believe that.

(Wicked Queen enters.)

QUEEN: *(Sweetly.)* What don't you believe, Charming?

CHARMING: That you're not nice...inside.

KRONI: *(Under his breath.)* Deep inside.

QUEEN: *(To Charming.)* Well, aren't you sweet? You see through me. I know most people think of me as a ghastly villainess with a deep-seated personality disorder and a case of dangerous paranoia. But that's not true, is it, Kroni?

KRONI: Not a bit, Your Wickedness.

QUEEN: I'm just a poor old lady who's been the victim of character assassination.

CHARMING: And I can help the world come to understand just how sweet and endearing you really are.

QUEEN: Oh, you live up to your name, Charming. How about telling the world just what a sweet old thing I really am? Kroni, here's my phone. Let's videotape a message for Snow White so she won't worry.

KRONI: Anything you say, Your Wretchedness.

CHARMING: Snow will really appreciate a message from me, though it would be a whole lot nicer if I could deliver it in person.

QUEEN: Let's not go there right now. Let's just tell Snow White where you are and why.

CHARMING: I don't know where I am or why.

QUEEN: Well, I'll explain that, young man. Now, you just be your charming self, Charming. Ready, Kroni?

KRONI: I was born ready!

(Kroni stands off to one side. Queen stands SR behind Charming. Note: For the following, Kroni "films" as Charming speaks with the Queen.)

CHARMING: *(Facing Kroni, to video camera or phone.)* Snow? It's me, Charming. I know I was supposed to be home today, but I'm a bit tied up at the moment. I have no idea

why, but this blast from your past is treating me well. Maybe she can give you a better idea of when I'll arrive home.

QUEEN: Very nice. Charming as always, Charming. (*Facing Kroni, to video camera or phone.*) As to the question of when your prince will come home, all you need to do is return to me my book of magic spells that you stole from me, and Charming will be back in your arms. Now, in case you don't do as I say...I warn you, I still haven't forgotten a couple of spells, particularly the one where I can turn Charming, here, into a frog. Do as I say or King Charming will turn into Mr. Toad! (*Laughs wickedly as lights fade to black.*)

[END OF FREEVIEW]