

THE SNOW QUEEN

A play for young audiences based on
Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale by
Ruth Cantrell

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

GRANDMOTHER, female.

GERDA, female.

KAI, male.

GOBLIN *

VAIN QUEEN/ SNOW QUEEN, female.

SERVANT #1, male.

SERVANT #2*

SERVANT #3/ HORACE, male.

HANDSOME SERVANT, male.

JOHN, male.

JAN, female.

CONJURE WOMAN, female.

DAFFODIL*

DANDELION*

TIGER LILY*

WEEPING WILLOW*

CAWTRINA, female.

PRINCE ERIK, male.

BLUE NORTHER*

FROSTBITE*

GLADYS, female.

RANDOLPH, male.

AURORA BOREALIS, female.

Character names with a * may be played by an actor of either gender.

DOUBLE CASTING

KAI, male.

GERDA, female.

GRANDMOTHER/CAWTRINA, female.

VAIN QUEEN/SNOW QUEEN, female.

QUEEN'S SERVANT #1/JAN, female.

QUEEN'S SERVANT #2/JOHN/FROSTBITE, male.

SERVANT #3/TIGER LILY/HORACE, male.

GOBLIN/PRINCE ERIK, male.

HANDSOME SERVANT/DANDELION/BLUE NORTHER,
male.

CONJURE WOMAN/AURORA BOREALIS, female.

DAFFODIL/GLADYS, female.

WEEPING WILLOW /RANDOLPH, male.

ACT I**SCENE 1**

(Living room of a small cottage. There is fire in a fireplace. An old red sled is leaning by the fireplace. In the large picture window falling snow is seen. GRANDMOTHER is sitting in an old rocking chair, knitting a muffler while KAI and his sister GERDA are playing jacks on the floor.)

KAI: There I won!

GERDA: Let's play again.

KAI: No, I'm tired of jacks.

GRANDMOTHER: Kai, here's a new muffler to keep you warm.

(Grandmother hands him the muffler.)

KAI: Thanks, Grandma.

GERDA: *(Goes to the window:)* See how the snowflakes gather and swirl? They look like bees in a hive.

GRANDMOTHER: And like bees they too have a Queen.

GERDA: They do?

GRANDMOTHER: Oh, yes, the Snow Queen. The howling wind announces her arrival. It's said she travels in a sleigh made of ice.

KAI: That must be cold.

GRANDMOTHER: Not as cold as her heart. Legend says that is was frozen into a block of ice.

GERDA: How did that happen?

GRANDMOTHER: It was pierced by a piece of a horrible magic mirror that distorted all that was beautiful and good.

(Lights flicker as Grandmother continues.)

Long ago there lived a young widowed Queen who, though beautiful, was vain.

(Lights up on the QUEEN dressed in warm colors. She is holding a baby. SERVANT 2 enters, bows and hands the Queen a scroll. Queen hands the baby to SERVANT 3 and starts to read, but stops and holds up a hand mirror and begins to preen. She drops the scroll and Servant 2 picks it up and exits.)

As each day passed her vanity grew worse.

(SERVANT 1 enters with a larger hand mirror. Queen takes the mirror and looks in it. The baby cries and Servant 3 tries to comfort it as the Queen hands Servant 1 back the mirror and takes the baby. The Queen makes Servant 1 hold up the mirror so she can continue to preen. Lights out on Queen's court.)

Now, there lived in the bottom of a very deep cave a goblin that hadn't seen the light of day for eons.

(Lights dimly up on the cave area. A pair of greenish bloodshot eyes appears from within the cave.)

The goblin heard of the Queen's beauty and was curious to see what real beauty looked like, and so he left his darkened cavern in search of this Queen.

(The Goblin's eyes close as the cave area fades to black. Lights up on the Queen's court. GOBLIN is standing next to Queen, who is looking in a mirror. Goblin tugs at her sleeve. The Queen is repulsed and signals for the Servants to cast Goblin out. Queen returns to admiring herself in the mirror.)

But the beautiful Queen was repulsed by the Goblin's hideous features and had him banished from her court.

(Lights out on the Queen's court. Lights up on Goblin's cave. There is a caldron bubbling.)

The Goblin was furious. This Queen must be taught a lesson. So there in the darkness of his cave he experimented with alchemy and the black arts.

(Goblin mixes a brew as the narration continues.)

He mixed a portion of envy, a pinch of conceit, and then he added a dash of distortion, mixed with a pound of hatred.

(Goblin gets a stick and begins to mix all the ingredients in the caldron.)

The mixture turned silver and, as he soon found out, was cold to the touch.

(The Goblin puts his hand into the mixture, and when he pulls it out it is distorted.)

This was just what he had wanted. The mixture had distorted his hand into a hideous, cold thing. It had no feeling at all. And as he looked at the cooled mixture in his hands he noticed it had formed a sort of mirror.

(Goblin looks in the mirror and screams.)

A mirror whose reflections showed only the cold and ugly side of life. This was a perfect gift for that vain Queen.

(Goblin starts to fashion a mirror frame with jewels.)

And so the Goblin set about making a beautiful jeweled frame for his mirror, but he knew he couldn't give the mirror to the Queen. His looks had repulsed her. But that was no matter. He would simply use his magic to change himself into a handsome servant and deliver the mirror to the vain Queen.

(Goblin drinks the mixture as a flash occurs and lights out on the cave. Lights up on the Queen's court. A HANDSOME SERVANT enters and bows. He hands Servant 1 a gift. Servant 2 starts to dismiss the Handsome Servant, but the Queen stops him.)

Because the servant was so handsome the Queen accepted his gift.

(The Queen hands the baby to Servant 3 as she opens the present and looks into the mirror. The lights flicker and distorted sounds are heard.)

The Queen did not like what she saw in the mirror.

(Queen drops the mirror, and reacts as various pieces of the broken mirror land in her eyes, ears and heart.)

Her gift shattered into many pieces. Some landed in the Queen's eyes and all she could see was a cold ugly world. Other pieces landed in her ears and all she could hear were cold, hateful words. But one large piece pierced her heart and turned it cold and hard as ice.

(Queen falls to the ground and her Servants rush to her as lights out on the court and up on the Goblin's cave.)

As for the goblin, he was quite pleased with himself. His icy silver mixture had great powers. Great powers indeed! He had another idea. He would create a larger mirror and take it to the highest mountaintop and shine it on the face of God. Then as God looked into it he would see only the cold, ugly world below. This would be the Goblin's finest triumph.

(Goblin begins to repeat the mixing process.)

He mixed a larger portion of envy, with a handful of conceit. Then he added several dashes of distortion, mixed with pounds and pounds of hatred.

(The mixture starts to smoke as the Goblin gets a stick and begins to mix all the ingredients in the caldron.)

And as the mixture bubbled and brewed the Goblin leaned over to see how his creation was faring...

(Goblin falls into the caldron. Lights out.)

...but the Goblin had leaned too far and fell into his own mixture of cruelty. And there he has remained for all eternity.

(Lights up on Goblin's legs sticking out of the caldron, frozen solid.)

As for the beautiful vain Queen...

(Lights up on the Queen's court. It is now in cold colors. Queen is in her same position grabbing her chest, but her costume is now blue and silver. She has transformed into the SNOW QUEEN.)

She had been transformed into a cold-hearted being and she didn't want to be alone in her cold cruel world, so she flung pieces of the hateful mirror at many of her subjects.

(Queen stands and takes a piece of the mirror and flings it at her subjects off stage.)

Those touched by the mirror were transformed into cold-hearted beings. But when the Queen tried to find her infant son and transform him into a cold-hearted creature, he was nowhere to be found. He had vanished, along with some of the servants. Frantically she searched for him, but she was forced to leave her kingdom, as she discovered it was too warm for her cold heart. She ordered her new subjects to move north and find her a more suitable climate for her domain. She kept her new palace hidden with blizzard winds and high snow drifts.

(Servants enter dressed in silver and blue. Their movements are very rigid. Their solemn facial expressions are frozen. Servant 1 places the medallion around the Queen's neck.)

This vain Queen soon forgot much of her past life, but the loss of her child touched even her cold heart. Soon stories began to surface of a beautiful lady in an icy sleigh who beckoned children to follow her. When anyone tried to stop her, a huge

gust of wind or a terrible blizzard appeared out of nowhere and suddenly the lady, her sleigh and the child were gone. The legend of this fearful Lady of the Ice, this Empress of the Blizzards, was known throughout the southern regions. The name she preferred was—the Snow Queen. She wears the remains of the mirror as a medallion. If she sees someone she wants, she breaks off pieces and tosses them at her victim, turning them as cold as ice.

(Lights out on Snow Queen.)

The Conjure Woman of the Lake once told me the Snow Queen's kisses were so cold they freeze all memories of home and loved ones.

KAI: Does she live near here?

GRANDMOTHER: Few know exactly where. The Conjure Woman of the Lake might know. She's been around these parts for so many years, not too much gets past her, but if she didn't know, I'm sure she'd know someone who would. Gerda, you're trembling. Are you cold?

GERDA: Yes...and a little scared.

KAI: Ah, there's nothing to be scared of. That ol' Snow Queen can't hurt you. If she tried, I'd protect you.

GRANDMA: You see, you have nothing to fear, Kai will protect you.

GERDA: But if anything happened to you or Kai, I'd be so frightened.

GRANDMOTHER: There is a song mothers sing to their children whenever they are afraid. *(Sings:)* **THOUGH WINTER IS HERE
YOU'VE NO NEED TO FEAR
SPRINGTIME SOON ON ITS WAY.**

GERDA: I remember hearing this. (*Sings:*) IF THE HOWLING SOUND
OF WIND HAS YOU DOWN,
HERE IS SOMETHING TO SAY.

GRANDMOTHER & GERDA: (*Sings:*) LOVE WILL KEEP YOU WARM.
NO MATTER HOW COLD THE STORM.
IN YOUR HEART IF YOU CARE,
GOD WILL ALWAYS BE THERE.
AND YOU'LL KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
AND HIS WARMTH WILL GUIDE YOU HOME.

GRANDMOTHER: That helped, didn't it?

GERDA: Yes. I feel better already.

GRANDMOTHER: Good. Now, no more talk about the Snow Queen. It's time for bed.

KAI: Grandma, do you think we can play in the snow tomorrow with Jan and John?

GRANDMOTHER: Of course, as long as you bundle up with your coats and mufflers.

KAI: We can take turns riding our sled.

GRANDMOTHER: It seems to me, if you two are going to have a full day of sledding tomorrow, you had better get some sleep tonight.

GERDA: Good night, Grandma.

GRANDMOTHER: Good night, dear.

KAI: Good night, Grandma. I'll put out the fire.

GRANDMOTHER: Thank you, dear.

(Grandmother takes a candle and, with Gerda, exits to the bedrooms. Kai goes to the fire and puts it out. He then exits to the

bedrooms. The WIND howls loudly and in the window appears the SNOW QUEEN.)

SCENE 2

(Outside in the snow. JOHN, JAN, Gerda and Kai are in a snowball fight.)

JOHN: Jan, put up the white flag.

JAN: Why? We still have some snowballs left.

JOHN: I know. This is a trick.

JAN: I'm not doing that.

JOHN: Why not?

JAN: It's not fair.

JOHN: Fair? What's fair in a snowball fight? Huh? Huh!

JAN: Ok, I guess so.

(Jan holds up a white handkerchief.)

GERDA: Kai, look they're surrendering.

(Gerda stands.)

KAI: Gerda, get down.

(John throws a snowball but it misses Gerda.)

Hey, you put out a white flag.

JAN: It was John's idea, he made me do it.

KAI: Are you all right?

GERDA: Yes, I'm fine.

JAN: Let's not play this anymore.

GERDA: Yes, let's take turns riding the sled.

JOHN: First one to the top of the hill gets to ride the sled first.
Ready. Set. Go!

(Gerda, Jan and John run off. Kai gets the sled.)

KAI: Go ahead, but you can't ride 'til I get there.

(Wind begins to howl and tosses Kai. Snow Queen enters breaking off a piece of the mirror.)

SNOW QUEEN: Bits of mirror cast your spell today.

Land in the eyes and heart of Kai.

Blizzard winds carry them to that boy.

Take away all of his happiness and joy.

Quickly let the particles go.

Travel mirror through the snow!

(WIND howls as Kai grabs his eyes.)

KAI: Oooh, my eyes. *(Grabs chest:)* Ooooh my chest!

(Wind dies down as Snow Queen exits.)

JAN: *(Reenters:)* Kai?

KAI: *(A sudden change:)* What do you want?

JAN: I wondered why you hadn't followed us. I thought something might have happened to you.

KAI: The only reason you came back was because you wanted the sled. You can't have it. It's mine. Understand? It's mine! And I won't let anyone as creepy looking as you play with it. You look like an ugly old toad.

(Kai pushes Jan down.)

JAN: Hey, quit that!

KAI: *(Mimics her:)* Quit that!

JAN: Stop it!

KAI: *(Mimics her:)* Stop it!

(John and Gerda reenter.)

JAN: Kai pushed me down and called me a toad.

KAI: Tattle tail.

GERDA: Kai.

KAI: Well, she is. Besides, what I called her was an ugly old toad.

GERDA: That was a terrible thing to say.

KAI: Thanks for siding with her over your own brother. You're an even bigger, uglier toad.

(Kai pushes Gerda down.)

GERDA: Kai, what has gotten into you?

KAI: Nothing! I've just had my eyes opened to how things really are, that's all.

(Kai exits.)

JAN: What's with him?

GERDA: I don't know. I've never seen him like this before. I'd better find out.

JOHN: I wouldn't get too close to him just yet. Let him cool down awhile.

GERDA: No, I've got to find out what's bothering him.

JOHN: We'll come with you.

(They exit as WIND HOWLS. Kai enters throwing muffler down.)

KAI: This ugly thing itches. My neck is probably covered with whelps. Why didn't she knit me a softer one?

(The sound of JINGLING BELLS is heard. Snow Queen enters in her sleigh.)

SNOW QUEEN: Kai! Kai! Kai!

KAI: Who's calling me?

SNOW QUEEN: I am, Kai.

KAI: Who are you?

SNOW QUEEN: A friend. Would you like to sit in my sleigh? It can travel as fast as the wind.

KAI: I don't think I should.

SNOW QUEEN: What's the harm? Here, have some nice snow cover.

(Kai enters the sleigh and Snow Queen covers him with a white blanket.)

Isn't this better than standing out there? You won't need that sled, will you? I want to take it home, so no one else can play with it. I don't blame you for not sharing.

KAI: I should go home.

SNOW QUEEN: *(Kisses his forehead.)* Let me take you to my home. Would you like that?

KAI: I guess so.

GERDA: *(Off:)* Kai? Kai? Where are you?

KAI: Who's calling me?

(Kai holds tightly to the sled.)

SNOW QUEEN: No one. It was nothing.

GERDA: *(Off:)* Kai? Kai?

KAI: It sounds so familiar.

SNOW QUEEN: It's nothing. Nothing you need to concern yourself with. Let your thoughts drift into a sleep.

(Kai sits motionless as Gerda enters. She picks up the muffler as the sleigh begins to move away. Snow Queen waves her hands and Gerda returns the gesture, thinking it is a friendly wave.)

GERDA: Kai? Wait.

(Gerda is tossed around by the sound of HOWLING WINDS until Snow Queen exits. Jan and John enter.)

I know he heard me call him, but he just ignored me.

JOHN: I told you to wait and let him cool down.

GERDA: Whose sleigh was he in?

JAN: What sleigh?

GERDA: Didn't you see the crystal sleigh with a beautiful lady? I know she saw me too, because she raised her hand and waved, but then this blast of cold air tossed me.

JOHN: It was the Snow Queen.

GERDA: She must have used her magic mirror to get Kai in her power. I've got to get him back.

JOHN: Gerda, you can't just go. The Snow Queen has all sorts of cold, horrible creatures in her power, like Blue Norther. His arctic blasts can stop you in your tracks. And, there's Frostbite, whose bite freezes anything it touches.

JAN: But the Snow Drifts are the worst. Their voices make you go to sleep, and you freeze to death 'cause you fall asleep in the snow.

GERDA: I don't care. I have to find Kai.

JOHN: You don't even know where the Snow Queen lives.

GERDA: My grandma said the Conjure Woman of the Lake knows lots of things. Maybe she'll know where the Snow Queen's palace is.

JOHN: Have you ever been to the Conjure Woman's cottage?

GERDA: No. Is it far?

JOHN: Yeah. Once you get to the lake, you have to keep following along its edge until you start to see things that are different.

GERDA: What do you mean, different?

JOHN: Like a talking rabbit, or a dancing fence. Things are just different around her place.

GERDA: Please tell my Grandma what's happened and where I've gone.

JAN: Remember to be careful. The Snow Queen saw you and she'll be waiting for you.

SCENE 3

(Conjure Woman's gated garden. There is a sign on the fenceless gate that reads: CONJUREGATE. CONJURE WOMAN enters.)

CONJURE WOMAN: That Snow Queen thinks she can come down here and coat my garden with snow. Now, how does that spell go? *(Plays panpipe:)* Tiger Lily that is orange...orange. What rhymes with orange? That can't be right. Well, if at first you don't succeed, try another pitch. *(Plays another pitch:)* Oh, yes. Tiger Lily, that is fair, come and grow, how about there?

(TIGER LILY enters.)

Aren't you a pretty thing?

(Tiger Lily roars like a tiger.)

What else?

(Tiger Lily roars again.)

Oh, yes. A lion. *(Plays another trill:)* Dandelion would you hurry up, or else I'll call the Buttercup.

(DANDELION enters and roars.)

Let's see, what else? Ah, yes. Something that is amusing. Got it! *(Plays another trill:)* How about a comic thrill, with a yellow daffodil?

(DAFFODIL enters, laughing.)

What are you laughing at?

(Daffodil shrugs and stops laughing.)

Well, maybe we need something of a more serious nature. Perhaps an arbor, but which type? Ah, yes. *(Plays another trill:)* All plants can't be so glad, Weeping Willow, come be sad.

(WEEPING WILLOW enters, crying.)

What a nice garden.

(Conjure Woman exits. Gerda enters, trying to open the locked gate, then walks around it.)

GERDA: There's no fence around this gate. That's certainly different.

DAFFODIL: Quite unusual.

GERDA: Who said that?

TIGER LILY: Who said what?

GERDA: That.

TIGER LILY: I never said that. *(To Willow:)* Did you?

WILLOW: Did I what?

TIGER LILY: Did you say that?

WILLOW: Why would I say that?

TIGER LILY: Why would you say anything?

WILLOW: I never said anything either. You are always picking on me.

(Willow cries.)

DAFFODIL: Now see what you did?

TIGER LILY: Me?

DAFFODIL: Well, I certainly didn't do it, did I?

GERDA: Talking flowers. You must be the work of the Conjure Woman of the Lake.

TIGER LILY: Who told you about the Conjure Woman of the Lake?

GERDA: My grandma.

DAFFODIL: Where is she now?

GERDA: My grandma stayed back in her house.

DANDELION: Why aren't you there, too?

GERDA: Because I'm looking for my brother Kai. The Snow Queen has him.

DANDELION: The Snow Queen. Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr.

WILLOW: She has your brother? That's so sad.

(Willow cries.)

GERDA: I'm sorry, I didn't mean to make him cry.

TIGER LILY: No one means to, he just does it.

GERDA: I was trying to see if the Conjure Woman knows where my brother Kai went.

DAFFODIL: Your brother, Kai Went?

GERDA: Yes, I'm his sister, Gerda.

DAFFODIL: Oh, so you must be Gerda Went.

GERDA: I beg your pardon?

DAFFODIL: You just said your brother Kai Went, so you must be Gerda Went.

TIGER LILY: No. She meant Kai went as in leaving. Went is a verb.

DAFFODIL: Went is a verb?

TIGER LILY: Yes.

DAFFODIL: And not a proper noun?

TIGER LILY: No. Went is a verb.

DAFFODIL: Are you sure?

TIGER LILY: Yes, as far as grammar goes.

DANDELION: But didn't you say your Grammar stayed back in her house?

GERDA: (*Understanding their confusion:*) No. I said my Grandma stayed.

DANDELION: That's what I said, isn't it?

DAFFODIL: I thought so.

GERDA: No. You said my grammar stayed.

DANDELION: Yes?

GERDA: Well, I didn't say my grammar stayed, I said, my Grandma stayed.

WILLOW: Oh, so she's your maternal grandmother?

GERDA: I beg your pardon?

WILLOW: Sure. I know all about family trees.

TIGER LILY: How do you figure she's her maternal grandmother?

WILLOW: Simple. She said her Grammar Stayed, right?

TIGER LILY: Yeah, so?

WILLOW: So, if she was her paternal Grandmother she would have said her Gramma Went.

DANDELION: 'Cause she's Gerda Went. Hey, that does make her Gerda's maternal Grandmother?

GERDA: I think I had better be going.

TIGER LILY: I'd be right with you kid, but I'm root bound.

(Conjure Woman reenters.)

CONJURE WOMAN: I see you are admiring my garden.

GERDA: Oh, yes. It's certainly different.

DAFFODIL: Quite unusual.

DANDELION: Henrietta, this is Gerda, and she has a brother, Kai.

CONJURE WOMAN: Is that right?

TIGER LILY: And her brother Kai left, right?

GERDA: Right.

DANDELION: Wrong.

TIGER LILY: Wrong?

DANDELION: Right.

TIGER LILY: What's right?

DANDELION: That you're wrong.

TIGER LILY: I'm wrong?

DANDELION: Right.

TIGER LILY: I'm wrong about what?

DANDELION: You said her brother, Kai Left.

TIGER LILY: Yeah, so?

DANDELION: So, that's wrong. Her brother, Kai Went.

TIGER: Went, left, whatever they all mean the same thing.

DANDELION: Not so. Not so!

CONJURE WOMAN: Silence! Give me a moment to conjugate all this. Now, as I understand it, you have a brother?

GERDA: Yes.

CONJURE WOMAN: And where is your brother now?

DANDELION: She has another brother?

CONJURE WOMAN: She does?

DAFFODIL: You just said so yourself. You just said, "Where is your brother, Now?" So, where is he?

TIGER LILY: No, mulch brain, she has no brother Now.

DANDELION: He's lost too?

TIGER LILY: Read my petals. The Snow Queen took her one brother Kai. Everybody understand?

DANDELION: But that's terrible.

WILLOW: Dreadfully sad.

CONJURE WOMAN: Is there anything we can do to help?

GERDA: I was hoping you might be able to tell me where the Snow Queen's palace is.

CONJURE WOMAN: Let me see if I can call up a spell. (*Conjuring a spell:*) The Snow Queen's palace, where can it be...?

My vision's blurred, oh, dear me.

TIGER LILY: Maybe you need to invest in a spell check.

GERDA: Thank you for trying.

CONJURE WOMAN: Aren't you sweet? But have no fear, I do know someone who might be able to help you. Let me caw her.

(*Conjure Woman CAWS.*)

GERDA: Caw her?

DAFFODIL: Yes, Cawtrina's a crow so naturally she has to caw her.

(*Sound of CAWING offstage.*)

CONJURE WOMAN: She says she is about a half a mile out as the crow flies. She'll be here presently.

GERDA: I hope she can help me find the Snow Queen's palace.

CONJURE WOMAN: She has a good eye for things.

WILLOW: I feel so badly for Gerda. I wish I could help.

(Willow cries.)

DAFFODIL: Ah, you old tree bark, it's all right. Go ahead, have a good weep.

CONJURE WOMAN: Tears of compassion have great healing powers. They can melt the coldest of hearts.

(CAWTRINA enters. She is a bit of a yenta.)

CAWTRINA: Henrietta, I got here as quickly as I could. Oh, I see we aren't alone. You are?

CONJURE WOMAN: Cawtrina Crow, Miss Gerda Went.

GERDA: Pleased to meet you.

CAWTRINA: Mutual, Miss Went. She's just a child. What is a child doing out alone?

GERDA: I'm looking for my brother.

CAWTRINA: Was I talking to her? *(To Gerda:)* Was I talking to you?

GERDA: I'm sorry, I couldn't help overhearing what you said.

CAWTRINA: Such ears. You are looking for your bruder?

GERDA: My what?

CAWTRINA: Your bruder. Your brother.

GERDA: Yes, my brother.

CAWTRINA: Such a nice girl. Looking for her brother. *(To Gerda:)* Did you hear what I just said?

GERDA: Yes, I did.

CAWTRINA: And?

GERDA: And?

CAWTRINA: And, aren't you going to thank me for calling you "such a nice girl."

GERDA: Oh, yes, thank you.

CAWTRINA: Don't mention it.

CONJURE WOMAN: Cawtrina, would you let her talk?

CAWTRINA: What? Have I tied her tongue? Please Miss Went, go on.

GERDA: Kai went with the Snow Queen in her sleigh. I think he might be at her palace by now.

CAWTRINA: Oy, that's not so good.

GERDA: I was hoping that you might know where the Snow Queen's palace is.

CAWTRINA: No, I don't. It's north of here, but where exactly, that's anybody's guess. Could be here, maybe over there. Who's to say?

GERDA: I see. Well, thank you anyway. It was nice meeting all of you.

CAWTRINA: Such manners.

TIGER LILY: What are you going to do?

GERDA: Go north and try and find Kai. I know he's probably very cold. He left this muffler and I have to get it to him.

CAWTRINA: No muffler?

GERDA: No.

CAWTRINA: What does this brother of yours look like?

GERDA: Well, he's about this tall.

CAWTRINA: Uh huh.

GERDA: Has dark hair.

CAWTRINA: Dark hair, I'm with you.

GERDA: And he was carrying a sled.

CAWTRINA: Get out of town. Was this sled, red?

GERDA: Yes.

CAWTRINA: And was it about yea big? Give or take a smidge?

GERDA: Yes.

CAWTRINA: And was this brother of yours all bundled up, except for no muffler?

GERDA: Yes. Mrs. Crow, have you seen him?

CAWTRINA: I saw a boy outside the Palace of Lapland this very afternoon, who was yea tall, had dark hair, carrying a red sled, and all bundled up, except for no muffler.

GERDA: That's him. Is the Palace of Lapland far from here?

CAWTRINA: Not if you fly. A ways if you walk.

GERDA: How could he have gotten there?

TIGER: Maybe he fell out of the Snow Queen's sleigh.

WILLOW: He might be hurt.

CAWTRINA: Hurt, smurt. He was fine. Riding that sled down a hill faster than the wind. Not a care in the world. I remember thinking, where is that child's muffler? What sort of mother lets her child out in this weather without a muffler?

GERDA: But he has one our Grandma knitted for him. He dropped it.

CONJURE WOMAN: Cawtrina, can you fly her there?

CAWTRINA: With my bad back and lumbago?

GERDA: If you could just give me directions, I can go.

CAWTRINA: Such determination. I'll show you the way myself.

GERDA: Thank you. Could we go now?

CAWTRINA: Youth! Always in such a hurry.

DANDELION: Gerda, it's almost dark. Shouldn't you wait and get a fresh start tomorrow?

GERDA: Yes, that would be better, I suppose.

CAWTRINA: Suppose, smoze, we'll do better to pack a few supplies and get a good rest.

CONJURE WOMAN: How about some nice warm soup?

CAWTRINA: Not chicken soup I hope. I always feel like it might be some distant relative.

CONJURE WOMAN: No, it's vegetable. *(To flowers:)* No one you knew.

CAWTRINA: Well, Miss Went, shall me?

GERDA: Please just call me Gerda.

CAWTRINA: And you can call me Cawtrina.

(They exit.)

DANDELION: I have one question.

CONJURE WOMAN: Yes, dear?

DANDELION: Gerda Went, right?

CONJURE WOMAN: Yes?

DANDELION: So, what do we call her tomorrow?

TIGER LILY: I know I'm going to regret asking this, but what are you talking about?

DANDELION: Well, when tomorrow comes, isn't Gerda Going?

TIGER LILY: What is with you, too much pollen in your pistil and it's affected your brain?

DAFFODIL: You don't have to worry about that because tomorrow never comes. You can be today and you have been yesterday, but you never, ever get to be tomorrow. At midnight just when you think tomorrow has come, it's suddenly today. And today, Gerda Went.

WILLOW: I hope she has a safe journey.

CONJURE WOMAN: Gerda has a great deal going for her. Her kindness leaves a lasting impression and her warmth and love will always protect her.

SCENE 4

(Lapland, near a pond. Two MALES are standing. The younger is holding a sled. Enter Cawtrina and Gerda.)

GERDA: Cawtrina, that's Kai. *(Hugs boy:)* Kai, I'm so glad you're safe.

HORACE: Gypsies! Run for your life.

CAWTRINA: I beg your pardon? Who is he calling gypsies?

GERDA: Excuse me. I thought you were my brother.

ERIK: That's perfectly all right.

HORACE: Young lady, you have broken protocol.

CAWTRINA: With that small hug? Gerda, you don't know your own strength. Look, "Mr. Run Away from Trouble," I'm sure his protocol can be fixed. He's a strong boy, he'll heal quickly.

HORACE: Protocol is the rules of the court. She has touched his Royal Highness and that is forbidden.

CAWTRINA: Were you aware that you touched his highness?

HORACE: This is his Royal Highness, Erik Von Hindenhall, Ruler of Lapland.

CAWTRINA: Gerda, I think our goose is cooked.

GERDA: *(Curtseys:)* I'm very sorry to have broken protocol.

ERIK: That's perfectly all right.

HORACE: It's time for your skating lesson, Your Highness.

ERIK: Yes, all right Horace. I'm coming. It was a pleasure meeting you, Miss...

GERDA: *(Curtseys:)* Gerda.

ERIK: Miss Gerda. And you are?

CAWTRINA: Mrs. Crow. I'd bow, but I have a bad case of lumbago.

HORACE: Prince Erik, your schedule.

(Horace begins skating lesson, but Erik watches Gerda.)

GERDA: Cawtrina, what do I do?

CAWTRINA: We have to regroup, that's all.

GERDA: We? Cawtrina, you have done more than enough. This is my problem, not yours. I just have to keep going north. I'm bound to find the Snow Queen's palace. The longer Kai's with her the less chance I have of ever getting him back.

(Gerda cries.)

ERIK: Forgive me, but I couldn't help seeing you are in distress. Could I help?

HORACE: Your Highness, your lesson.

ERIK: In a moment! What seems to be the matter?

CAWTRINA: The Snow Queen has kidnapped her brother, the one she thought you were. She has to find the Snow Queen's palace and get him back.

ERIK: I'm not certain where the Snow Queen's palace is, but we must have maps of our borders, perhaps they could show you.

(The WIND starts to HOWL.)

Horace, go to the castle and get the maps of our borders.

HORACE: As you wish.

(Horace exits.)

ERIK: Those maps might show you the way north to the Snow Queen's palace.

(Lights dim as WIND HOWLS loudly.)

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CAWTRINA: What was that?

BLUE NORTHER (V.O.): Say no more.

ERIK: Who dares to speak to me this way?

BLUE NORTHER (V.O.): Blue Norther, subject to her Royal Highness, the Snow Queen. You are in jeopardy of breaking the Ice Pact with her Majesty. It states that no one reveals the whereabouts of the Snow Queen's palace. In return the Snow Queen will not use her powers to destroy and freeze your lands.

CAWTRINA: Seems to me, if this Snow Dragon had such powers she would have used them already. My bet is she has no such power, but plenty of chutzpah.

ERIK: Mrs. Crow, you may be right. I've never heard of this Ice Pact.

BLUE NORTHER (V.O.): A mistake.

(Lights dim as WIND increases.)

HORACE: *(Reenters:)* Brrrrrr.

BLUE NORTHER (V.O.): A mistake. A mistake.

(Maps are tossed in the air, but Prince Erik retrieves one.)

ERIK: *(Reads map:)* Gerda, go north until you come to a crescent-shaped fjord, then go east until the path divides. There, take the northern path, and you'll come to her palace.

(WIND ROARS.)

BLUE NORTHER (V.O.): You'll be sorry.

CAWTRINA: What a windbag.

ERIK: The fjord isn't too far, and her palace is only about a mile from there.

HORACE: Whose palace, Your Grace?

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CAWTRINA: The Snow Queen's.

HORACE: But you mustn't go there. It's a dreadful place, full of danger.

ERIK: Should I allow Gerda and Mrs. Crow to go alone? What sort of ruler would I be if I stayed behind because of some danger, but let them face it?

HORACE: I see Your Grace's point, but...

ERIK: A point I might add that I learned from you. You taught me a ruler must face all dangers with courage. Return to the castle and tell our people to prepare for a long, cold winter.

HORACE: At once, Your Grace.

(Horace exits.)

ERIK: You two can't stay here. The Snow Queen will be looking for you.

GERDA: Which way is the fjord?

ERIK: This way, but you aren't going there. I have a plan, but first give me your hat, cape, and muffler and you take mine. Quickly, there isn't much time.

CAWTRINA: Not to be nosey, but why is she doing this?

ERIK: She's disguising herself as me, and I'm disguising myself as her.

GERDA: But why?

ERIK: Because I'm going to the fjord as you and you are going to see Aurora Borealis.

CAWTRINA: Who?

GERDA: It doesn't matter who, because I am going to the Snow Queen's palace.

ERIK: Gerda, that Blue Norther will tell the Snow Queen everything he heard and she'll send all sorts of cold-hearted creatures to stop you. If you go to the fjord, they'll be waiting for you there, but if you go to see Aurora Borealis she can help you find another way to the Snow Queen's palace.

GERDA: What about you? You'll be walking into a trap.

ERIK: Yes, but I'll know that it's a trap so I'll be better prepared.

GERDA: What makes you think Aurora Borealis can help?

ERIK: I met her last spring when I ran away.

CAWTRINA: You ran away? What's a prince have to run away from?

ERIK: I haven't had a life of my own. Horace has been wonderful, but sometimes he demands too much from me.

CAWTRINA: Maybe Horace pushes you because he wants you to do your very best.

ERIK: Yes, I know. He's been like a father to me, since I never knew my parents.

GERDA: Neither did I. Our grandparents raised Kai and me.

CAWTRINA: You're orphans? And me without a handkerchief.

GERDA: But what about Aurora Borealis? How can she help?

ERIK: She's called the Lady of the Lights, because she's enlightened and knows things without being told. We had never met before and the first thing she said when she saw me was that the Prince of Lapland shouldn't run away from his duties. Then she said someone was coming who would seek my guidance, and if I was brave enough to help her, and if I would take a journey and face whatever dangers were at hand, I would become a ruler any mother would be proud of.

CAWTRINA: That's some vision this lights woman has. So, Gerda, what are we waiting for? Let's go!

GERDA: Cawtrina, in order to keep up the disguise, you'll have to go with Prince Erik.

CAWTRINA: And leave you all by your lonesome?

ERIK: I don't like it either, but I agree with Gerda. We have to keep up appearances.

CAWTRINA: But who will protect Gerda?

GERDA: I'll be careful. Besides you're the one who may be walking into a trap.

CAWTRINA: Trap, shmap. We'll be fine.

GERDA: Well, so will I.

ERIK: There are gypsies in the forest, so you'll have to keep an eye out for them.

CAWTRINA: An eye? What sort of advice is that? Gerda, you keep both eyes out for them gypsies. Understand?

GERDA: Yes. I will. (*Hands Erik Kai's muffler:*) Goodbye.

(Gerda exits.)

CAWTRINA: Your Grace, shall we?

(Cawtrina exits. Horace reenters and quickly follows Cawtrina and Erik.)

SCENE 5

(A snow scene. Snow Queen and Kai sit in her sleigh.)

SNOW QUEEN: One day this will be yours, Kai.

KAI: It's so empty and cold.

SNOW QUEEN: Yes, isn't it grand?

KAI: I guess so. It needs some color.

SNOW QUEEN: Hmm, you still remember color?

(The sound of the HOWLING WIND is heard. Blue Norther enters.)

BLUE NORTHER: Your Majesty?

SNOW QUEEN: Why do you disturb me, Blue Norther?

BLUE NORTHER: I have news that cannot wait. The location of your palace was given to a crow and a young girl named Gerda.

KAI: Gerda? I knew a girl named Gerda. She had a red sled.

SNOW QUEEN: Kai, dear, you needn't worry about this.
(Kisses his forehead.) Rest now.

KAI: Gerda's my sister.

(Kai falls asleep.)

SNOW QUEEN: Idiot! Never, ever, bring up his sister's name again or I'll turn you into a breeze, and your cold winds will be a mere flutter.

BLUE NORTHER: Yes, Your Coldness, but she's merely a child.

SNOW QUEEN: Merely a child? She could destroy everything in my kingdom if she isn't stopped. Her warmth alone could turn the likes of you into a gentle summer breeze. Argh!!!!!!! Now see what you've done? You've made me say

words like warmth and summer! Get out of my sight! No, wait!!!! I want you to get Frostbite.

BLUE NORTHER: But he doesn't like being disturbed.

SNOW QUEEN: You had no trouble disturbing me, so why shouldn't you disturb him?

BLUE NORTHER: At once, Your Grace.

(Blue Norther exits.)

SNOW QUEEN: *(Stroking Kai's hair:)* Gerda thinks she can fight me. Ha! She doesn't know who she is dealing with. Frostbite will freeze her and her foul friend into such a deep coma that you'll be an old man before she ever begins to thaw out. Imagine you an old man. You're just a boy, now, but I'll raise you to be my heir. You'll be my child...my child...where did he go?

(FROSTBITE enters.)

FROSTBITE: Where did who go?

SNOW QUEEN: How dare you eavesdrop!

FROSTBITE: I thought you were speaking to me. Sorry, Your Highness.

SNOW QUEEN: I have a little job for you that will let you use all your strength and coldness. I want you to find a crow and a young girl and freeze them. I give you permission to do whatever you like to them.

FROSTBITE: Whatever? I can freeze just an arm or leg? Or maybe freeze their feet and watch them struggle.

SNOW QUEEN: I don't care how you do it, just do it. And when it's done, I want you to send up a snow flare and I'll meet you as quickly as my sleigh will fly

FROSTBITE: This should be fun.

SNOW QUEEN: I thought you might enjoy it. I'll expect a flare from you soon?

FROSTBITE: Yes, Your Coldness.

(Frostbite bows and exits.)

SNOW QUEEN: Well, my little Kai, soon the piece of mirror will freeze your heart as cold as ice and then all of your sister's warmth will have no affect on you. I just need time for the mirror to work its icy magic. And when it does, you'll be mine.

SCENE 6

(Another snow scene. Cawtrina and Erik are walking.)

CAWTRINA: We must be getting closer to the Snow Queen's palace because it's getting colder.

(WINDS get louder as Frostbite enters.)

Ooooooh, such wind.

ERIK: It must be one of the Snow Queen's storms.

CAWTRINA: Well, we can weather whatever storm she sends. *(Sees Frostbite:)* However, I'm not so sure about whatever this is.

FROSTBITE: The name's *(Like "Bond. James Bond":)* Bite, Frostbite. Perhaps you have heard of me. I love to munch on fingers and noses.

CAWTRINA: Well, you're out of luck, Mr. Bite, because I haven't any fingers or a nose. I'm a crow.

ERIK: Cawtrina, run.

FROSTBITE: Not so fast, little birdie.

(Frostbite bites Cawtrina's legs.)

CAWTRINA: What's happened? My legs are so stiff I can hardly move them. Save yourself.

HORACE: *(Enters:)* Run, Your Grace.

ERIK: Horace, what are you doing here?

HORACE: I followed you.

FROSTBITE: Her name isn't Grace, it's Gerda.

ERIK: *(Falsetto:)* Yes. That's right. I'm Gerda. Horace, try and help Mrs. Crow.

HORACE: At once, your Grace...er...Gerda.

FROSTBITE: (*Hugs Horace:*) There. Only one is left.

(*Frostbite sends up the snow flare.*)

CAWTRINA: You cold-hearted shmoe.

(*Frostbite goes to Cawtrina as Prince Erik tries to protect her. Frostbite bites him and he freezes. Snow Queen enters.*)

SNOW QUEEN: I see you have succeeded.

FROSTBITE: Yes, Your Coldness.

SNOW QUEEN: Who is this person?

FROSTBITE: Someone who followed them, Your Coldness.

SNOW QUEEN: Well, bring him along too. So, this is Gerda who thought she could outsmart me? Let me see her face.

(*Frostbite pulls the muffler and hat off Prince Erik.*)

But this isn't a girl. We've been tricked.

(*Frostbite smells the muffler and hat.*)

What are you doing?

FROSTBITE: Getting her scent. (*Smells the air:*) She's over that direction.

SNOW QUEEN: Well, what are you waiting for?

FROSTBITE: I thought I'd load these three into your sleigh.

SNOW QUEEN: Do you think I would let those warm-hearted creatures into my beautiful crystal sleigh? (*Raises her staff:*)

Come winds from across the snow,

Toss away this dreaded foe.

Use your turbulence and power,

Carry them to my palace's tower.

(*A HOWLING WIND is heard as Cawtrina, Horace and Erik are swept away.*)

You see how I gave the winds a command and they followed.
Find that girl. Don't fail me again, Frostbite, or you'll be back
on the ground freezing pansies.

ACT II

SCENE 1

(Edge of a forest at twilight. There are silhouettes and shadows of GYPSIES leaning on trees, hiding behind stumps, and interspersed through the forest. Gerda enters.)

GYPSY VOICE #2: She ain't from here, is she?

GYPSY VOICE #1: Obviously not.

GERDA: Who are you?

GYPSY VOICE #2: Don't move, 'cause you is surrounded.

GERDA: All right, but would you tell me who you are?

(GLADYS jumps out.)

GLADYS: Well, well, I guess I can tell you who I am. The name's Gladys, and I'm Queen of the Gypsies. So, what are you doin' in my forest?

GERDA: I didn't know it was your forest.

GLADYS: Yeah. It's mine and my band of gypsies.

GERDA: I see. Well, I'm just passing through. I won't bother you anymore.

(Gerda turns to leave, and Gladys snaps her fingers as a REINDEER jumps out to stop her.)

GLADYS: Too late. You already have bothered me.

RANDOLPH: Can I tie her up, Gladys? Please, oh please, oh please!

GLADYS: All in good time, Randolph. First, bring little goodie two shoes over here to me.

GERDA: Please. I really just need to get through your forest. I'll be in and out before you know it.

GLADYS: But I already do know it. Besides, nobody leaves here without my permission.

GERDA: May I please have your permission to leave?

GLADYS: Since you asked so nicely. Sure.

GERDA: Thank you.

(Gerda starts to leave. Gladys snaps her fingers and Randolph blocks Gerda.)

I asked permission.

GLADYS: I changed my mind.

GERDA: Please, I have to leave.

GLADYS: Nope.

GERDA: It's a matter of life and death.

RANDOLPH: Pleaseeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.

GLADYS: Well, well, what have we here? A furry little hat, a nice warm coat and very soft leather gloves. Nice merchandise.

GERDA: You can have all of them, if you'll let me go.

GLADYS: Did you hear that, Randy? I can have all of them.

GERDA: Please, just let me go.

RANDOLPH: She don't get it, huh, Gladys.

GLADYS: Obviously not. Let me enlighten you about the world of the gypsies. Gypsies don't have any bodies. Gypsies take, or, to be more precise, gypsies grab. (*Rapping:*) THE GYPSY GRAB IS QUITE A DEAL, IT'S OUR OWN WAY TO ROB AND STEAL. THE SECRET IS TO GRAB AND HOLD, IT'S A TRADITION THAT IS QUITE OLD. GOTTA GRAB IT.

RANDOLPH: JUST NAB IT.

BOTH: CAN'T BREAK THE HABIT.
GOTTA GRAB IT.

RANDOLPH: THE GYPSY GRAB TAKES LOTS OF THINGS—
FURS, WATCHES AND DIAMOND RINGS.
SO, IF YOU HAVE A HAT OF RABBIT,
DON'T BE SURPRISED IF THE GYPSIES GRAB IT.

BOTH: GOTTA GRAB IT.
JUST NAB IT.
CAN'T BREAK THE HABIT.
GOTTA GRAB IT.

GLADYS: So, why don't you run around and me and Randolph will grab your stuff?

GERDA: I haven't time to play this silly game. (*She hands hat to a gypsy hiding behind the stump:*) Here.

GLADYS: Stop.

GERDA: Take it.

(Gypsy falls to the ground. It is a doll.)

GLADYS: Now you've ruined everything.

RANDOLPH: This is terrible.

GERDA: (*Goes over to another gypsy:*) I don't understand. This is a doll, too. Is your whole band of gypsies dolls?

RANDOLPH: (*Defensively:*) Maybe.

GERDA: But they spoke to me.

GLADYS: Nah, that was me and Randy. We used different voices.

GERDA: What happened to the other gypsies?

GLADYS: They got tired of living the vagabond life so they split, got jobs. All that's left is me and Randolph. We've been trying to maintain the gypsy tradition.

GERDA: I'm really sorry. (*Sits the gypsy dolls back up:*) There, they look as good as new.

GLADYS: You mean you ain't gonna rat on us and tell everyone there ain't no band of gypsies?

GERDA: No, as long as you won't try and keep me here or anyone else who wants to come through the forest.

GLADYS: It's a deal.

(Gladys shakes Gerda's hand.)

GERDA: Here. (*Holds up her gloves and turns her back to Gladys:*) Grab it.

(Gerda grabs the gloves.)

GLADYS: Thanks, kid. You're ok.

GERDA: You aren't so bad yourself.

(Frostbite roars.)

RANDOLPH: What was that?

(Frostbite enters and sniffs the air.)

FROSTBITE: The Snow Queen sends her regards.

(Frostbite bites Gladys's leg.)

GLADYS: I can't move.

(Randolph tries to help, but Frostbite bites Randolph's antlers. Frostbite shoots off a flare.)

GERDA: Leave them alone. I'm who you want, not them. Randolph, can you hear me? (*Puts her hat on Randolph:*) Maybe this will warm you up.

FROSTBITE: (*Bites Gerda's hand:*) Oooooowwwwwwwwwwwww, a warm unselfish gesture.

(*Frostbite runs off.*)

GLADYS: Gerda, are you all right?

GERDA: I think so. What about Randolph?

RANDOLPH: (*Shaking his head:*) Yeah, I just got one of them ice cream headaches.

GLADYS: But otherwise you're, ok?

RANDOLPH: Yeah, fine.

GLADYS: (*Examines Gerda's hands:*) Hey, your hands ain't frozen.

GERDA: They ain't... I mean they aren't.

GLADYS: Must be 'cause you're so warmhearted and brave that it took the bite out of his frost. Listen, you better get out of here.

GERDA: I have to find Aurora Borealis.

GLADYS: Randy here can take you to her place. He knows the forest like the back of his hooves.

GERDA: But we can't leave you here with frozen legs.

GLADYS: They're already thawing. See. (*Walks stiffly:*) But I'd just slow you down. You two go on. Me and the bogus gypsies here will be all right. (*Hands Gerda the gloves:*) Here, you'll need these.

GERDA: Keep them as a gift from one friend to another. It could be a new gypsy tradition.

RANDOLPH: I like it, Gladys.

GLADYS: Yeah, I like it too. And to show you just how much I like this giving tradition, I'm gonna give Randolph as a

helping hand, or in this particular case, a helping hoof. You two head on to Aurora's. Me and the gypsies here will stall Frostbite for as long as we can. And Randy, you take good care of her, and yourself too, you old hat rack.

RANDOLPH: You too, Gladys. You too. This way, Gerda.

(Randolph and Gerda exit as Gladys poses as one of the frozen gypsies. Snow Queen enters with Frostbite weeping.)

SNOW QUEEN: Well, where is she?

FROSTBITE: *(Having trouble speaking:)* Shhe gought awaaaaaay.

SNOW QUEEN: What is wrong with your mouth?

FROSTBITE: That girl was so warm and unselfish, she melted my teeth. I'm ruined. The snowflakes will make fun of me.

(Frostbite cries.)

SNOW QUEEN: I'll make her pay for what she has done.

(Holds her staff up:) I call the blizzards to come and blow.

Fill this land with armies of snow.

Your temperatures will make them freeze.

And then, I can do exactly as I please.

(Sound of HOWLING WIND.)

FROSTBITE: But what if she can weather those storms?

SNOW QUEEN: Weather the storms? Hmmm, I see your point.

(Holds her staff up:) I call the snowdrifts to come along.

Find Gerda and sing your song.

Come now and do as I command.

Destroy this girl from another land.

(The sound of WINDS and a faint, high-pitched HARMONY is heard.)

SCENE 2

(Frozen tundra with flickering northern lights. Randolph and Gerda enter.)

GERDA: We have to hurry. The longer my brother is with the Snow Queen, the colder and crueler he is bound to become.

RANDOLPH: Is that why you want to know where the Snow Queen's palace is?

GERDA: Yes.

(A faint, DISSONANT HARMONY is heard.)

Listen to that? Isn't it pretty?

RANDOLPH: Quick Gerda, cover your ears.

GERDA: Why?

RANDOLPH: Them's the Snow Drifts.

(Sound gets louder as Randolph puts his hooves over Gerda's ears. He falls asleep standing.)

GERDA: Randy, I don't think this is really necessary. Randy? What's wrong with you?

(Takes his hooves from her ears and once she can hear the SNOW DRIFTS' dissonant harmony she falls asleep. AURORA BOREALIS enters with a shovel.)

AURORA: All right you Snow Drifts, either blow out of here with your sales pitch, or I'll dig into you myself. *(Holds the shovel in the air as the Snow Drifts' harmony fades:)* And stay out, you worthless drifters!

GERDA: *(Coming to:)* What happened? *(Goes to Randolph:)* Randy, are you all right?

AURORA: He'll be all right in a bit. He just has a case of Driftentary.

GERDA: What's Driftentary?

AURORA: Happens if you drink in the sounds of the Snow Drifts. Their voices lure you into a deep, almost hibernating sleep. We'll need to get him into a warm place and let him sleep it off. Lucky for you that I have shovel diplomacy, which can dig through those Snow Drifts. They can't find their right pitch to harmonize, and lose their powers.

GERDA: Why weren't you affected by their singing?

AURORA: I'm tone deaf. He's worse off than I thought. We need to get him warm.

GERDA: How long will it take?

AURORA: Hard to say. A few hours, a few days.

GERDA: I haven't got days. I have to save my brother from the Snow Queen.

AURORA: Your friend will be safe with me. Follow the snow line until you come to an ice field. Go across the field and you'll see what looks to be an iceberg, but it's really the Snow Queen's palace.

GERDA: Thank you.

AURORA: Here's a little bit of advice if you'd like.

GERDA: Yes, please.

AURORA: When the time comes, and you'll know when, simply trust what you believe in your heart.

GERDA: But what do you mean?

AURORA: You'll know.

GERDA: (*Hugs Randolph:*) Get better, hear me?

AURORA: As soon as he hears, he's better.

GERDA: Thank you.

(Gerda exits.)

AURORA: *(Looking at the sky:)* I think a little more light would help her find the snow line.

(Aurora raises hand as the Northern lights flicker.)

(For the 65-minute version, the Goblin character is cut. Act I, Scene 1 is as follows:)

(Living room of a small cottage. There is fire in a fireplace. An old red sled is leaning by the fireplace. In the large picture window falling snow is seen. GRANDMOTHER is sitting in an old rocking chair knitting a muffler while KAI and his sister GERDA are playing jacks on the floor.)

KAI: There, I won!

GERDA: Let's play again.

KAI: No, I'm tired of jacks.

GRANDMOTHER: Kai, here's a new muffler to keep you warm.

(Grandmother hands him the muffler.)

KAI: Thanks, Grandma.

GERDA: *(Goes to the window:)* See how the snowflakes gather and swirl? They look like bees in a hive.

GRANDMOTHER: And, like bees, they too have a Queen.

GERDA: They do?

GRANDMOTHER: Oh, yes, the Snow Queen. The howling wind announces her arrival. It's said she travels in a sleigh made of ice.

KAI: That must be cold.

GRANDMOTHER: Not as cold as her heart. It was pierced by a piece of a horrible magic mirror that distorted all that was

beautiful and good. She had been transformed into a cold-hearted being and she didn't want to be alone in her cold cruel world, so she flung pieces of the hateful mirror at many of her subjects. But when the Queen tried to find her infant son and transform him into a cold-hearted creature, he was nowhere to be found. This vain Queen soon forgot much of her past life, but the loss of her child touched even her cold heart. Soon stories began to surface of a beautiful lady in an icy sleigh who beckoned children to follow her. When anyone tried to stop her, a huge gust of wind or a terrible blizzard appeared out of nowhere and suddenly the lady, her sleigh and the child were gone. The legend of this fearful Lady of the Ice, this Empress of the Blizzards was known throughout the southern regions. The name she preferred was – the Snow Queen. She wears the remains of the mirror as a medallion. If she sees someone she wants, she breaks off pieces and tosses them at her victim, turning them as cold as ice. The Conjure Woman of the Lake once told me the Snow Queen's kisses were so cold they freeze all memories of home and loved ones.

KAI: Does she live near here?

GRANDMOTHER: Few know exactly where. The Conjure Woman of the Lake might know. She's been around these parts for so many years, not too much gets passed her, but if she didn't know, I'm sure she'd know someone who would. Gerda, you're trembling. Are you cold?

GERDA: Yes...and a little scared.

KAI: Ah, there's nothing to be scared of. That ol' Snow Queen can't hurt you. If she tried, I'd protect you.

GRANDMOTHER: You see, you have nothing to fear, Kai will protect you.

GERDA: But if anything happened to you or Kai, I'd be so frightened.

GRANDMOTHER: There is a song mothers sing to their children whenever they are afraid. (*Sings:*) THOUGH WINTER IS HERE,
YOU'VE NO NEED TO FEAR.
SPRINGTIME SOON ON ITS WAY.

GERDA: I remember hearing this.

GRANDMOTHER: (*Sings:*) IF THE HOWLING SOUND OF WIND HAS YOU DOWN,
HERE IS SOMETHING TO SAY.

GRANDMOTHER & GERDA: (*Sings:*) LOVE WILL KEEP YOU WARM,
NO MATTER HOW COLD THE STORM.
IN YOUR HEART, IF YOU CARE,
GOD WILL ALWAYS BE THERE,
AND YOU'LL KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE,
AND HIS WARMTH WILL GUIDE YOU HOME.

GRANDMOTHER: That helped, doesn't it?

GERDA: Yes. I feel better already.

GRANDMOTHER: Good. Now, no more talk about the Snow Queen. It's time for bed.

KAI: Grandma, do you think we can play in the snow tomorrow with Jan and John?

GRANDMOTHER: Of course, as long as you bundle up with your coats and mufflers.

KAI: We can take turns riding our sled.

GRANDMOTHER: It seems to me, if you two are going to have a full day of sledding tomorrow, you had better get some sleep tonight.

GERDA: Good night, Grandma.

GRANDMOTHER: Good night, dear.

KAI: Good night, Grandma. I'll put out the fire.

GRANDMOTHER: Thank you, dear.

(Grandmother takes a candle and with Gerda exits to the bedrooms. Kai goes to the fire and puts it out. He then exits to the bedrooms. The WIND howls loudly and in the window appears the SNOW QUEEN.)

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