

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

The WICKED QUEEN is an intriguing character in the story of Snow White. She hates any opposition to her belief that she is the most beautiful woman in the world and will do anything, however cruel, to achieve this ambition. Her hatred of the lovely Snow White has become an obsession and she has unsuccessfully tried several ways to have her murdered. In this scene, the story has been placed in a contemporary context and the Wicked Queen has decided to enter a 'Miss World' beauty contest. She is speaking to the audience – but alternates between presenting her case as a contestant and reliving certain events in her life.

WICKED QUEEN: *(Entering with a dramatic flourish)* Well hello everybody, I'm here! I don't think you need to look any further for your Miss World. Why not save all the expense of a lavish show and just crown me now. Why am I so sure? Who are you, dear, and what do you know about beautiful women? Don't answer that, we haven't got time to waste. Well you see, I have a magic mirror, and it is able to see all the women in the world, and then report back to me who is the most beautiful. Every time I have asked it, well, apart from a little hiccup a while ago, every time it has told me that I am the most beautiful. What was the little hiccup? Oh some poor girl who was very lovely, but alas, *(she takes out her handkerchief)*, she had a most unfortunate accident. *(She pretends to weep)* I'm sorry, it does so upset me when I think of her. I have such a tender heart you see. I want peace and love for everyone all over the world. That is my sincere wish. What talents do I have? Well, I'm a very accomplished actress. Why, sometimes, to amuse my friends, I dress up as an old witch and they tell me I'm really convincing. *(She throws her scarf over her head and becomes the witch)* Have I got anything that you would like to buy, my dear? What about this pretty necklace? Yes, of course you can try it on. Because it's poisoned, you stupid little girl! *(Coming out of character)* Oh, sorry, I got a bit carried away there.

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Good though, aren't I? My figure is superb. My skin is as soft as satin and I never seem to age. I could go on being Miss World for years. And I have a very powerful effect on men. They do anything I say. See that one in the audience there, that handsome huntsman who is shaking in his boots. You would do anything I asked, wouldn't you? *Wouldn't you!* There, you see. Of course he does work for me, so he couldn't really disagree. So what are you waiting for? Do you want me as Miss World or not? I look wonderful in a swimsuit, I have enough money to pay off any of the other pathetic little candidates, and I could make life very difficult for all of you. What's that? My mirror! Who has brought that here? How dare you? It says what?! It's a fake! It's a fraud! *(She takes off her shoe and throws it at the mirror)* That's what I think of you, you stupid mirror. Now where's that huntsman gone? Come here. You've got some very serious questions to answer. Where are you?

by Eleanor McLeod