

PLAYS FOR
NewAudiences

**A DIVISION OF CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY
2400 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55404**

The Snow Queen

Adapted for the Stage by
Ashley Griffin

From the story by
Hans Christian Andersen

*For my "Grandma Mommy"
Who loved telling stories with me.*

*The Snow Queen was commissioned by Maor Performing Arts in January, 2018.
The original production premiered in July, 2018, produced by Maor Performing Arts and
directed by Rachel Klein.*

Copyright © 2018

The license issued in connection with PNA perusal scripts is a limited license and is issued for the sole purpose of reviewing the script for a potential future performance. All other rights regarding perusal scripts are expressly reserved by Plays for New Audiences, including, but not limited to, the rights to distribute, perform, copy, or alter scripts. This limited license does not convey any performance rights of any kind with this material. By accepting any perusal script(s), Licensee agrees to and is bound by these terms.

Cast List

Sprite

The Town

Gerda

Kay (*Pronounced to rhyme with "Lie" not "Lay"*)

Grandmother

Jenny

Sofie

Emma

Girl 1

Girl 2

Girl 3

Girl 4

The Land of Spring

Lady of Spring

Water Fairy

Forest Fairy

Rose

Lily

Daisy

Violet

Lavender

Iris

Poppy

Jasmine

The Land of Summer

Princess of Summer

Princess Rosebud

Diamond Princess

Ruby Princess

Emerald Princess

Sapphire Princess

Amber Princess

Bluebird

The Land of Autumn

Robber Girl

Queen of Autumn

Reindeer

Esme

Naomie

Leonora

The Land of Winter

Snow Queen

Snowflake

Snowdrop

NOTE: *With the exception of the actors playing Gerda, Kay and The Snow Queen all actors may play multiple roles. All roles are gender non-specific/pronouns may be adjusted. Girl 1, 2, 3, 4 represent additional lines that may be assigned to any ensemble member at the director's discretion.*

Scene 1

Which Tells of a Mirror and of the Splinters

ALL

Now then, let us begin.

The whole cast sits at the feet of GRANDMOTHER who begins telling them a story.

GRANDMOTHER

When we are at the end of the story we shall know more than we do now.

They all look at her, annoyed by the detour.

SOFIE

Just tell it!

JENNY

It's my favorite!

ALL

Shh!

GRANDMOTHER

Once upon a time -

We see the SPRITE appear above the action, holding a mirror and acting out the story being told.

JENNY

There was a wicked sprite!

EMMA

Shh! Let her tell it.

JENNY

And she made a magic looking glass!

ALL

Shh!

SPRITE

What a wonderful invention! Everything beautiful that is reflected in it will almost shrink to nothing, while everything that is worthless and bad looks increased in size and worse than ever!

GRANDMOTHER

And the sprite was planning great mischief with her new invention when suddenly –

SOFIE

It slipped from her hands –

EMMA

And fell!

JENNY

Down, down, down!

SOFIE

Where it broke into a thousand pieces!

JENNY

Shh!

SPRITE

My beautiful mirror! But oh, perhaps it is better after all! For it may cause much more unhappiness now -

JENNY

How?

ALL

Shh!

SPRITE

- For some of the fragments are not so large as a grain of sand. And if one of these tiny pieces flies into a person's eye it shall get stuck there and from that moment they will only see the worst side of what they look at. And if they get a fragment in their heart, their heart shall become like a cold lump of ice.

KAY

Oh! I don't like this story!

EMMA

Why not Kay?

KAY

It's too horrible! How frightening that such a thing could happen!

GERDA

It's not a really true story. *(A beat.)* Is it Grandmother?

GRANDMOTHER

Shh. That's enough for today. Time for everyone to go home. It's bedtime soon.

Everyone gets up. GERDA pulls KAY to the side of the stage.

GERDA

After you turn the lights out, jump across from your roof to mine. I'll meet you there. Then we can talk.

They do a secret handshake.

EMMA

(Looking at them) I wish I had a best friend like that.

SOFIE

Gerda and Kay. More like sisters than friends.

JENNY

Well, they've lived next door to each other since they were born!

EMMA

Exactly. I wish I had a friend like that!

SOFIE

Come on! It's snowing!

They run off. Snowflakes float down.

GRANDMOTHER

It's the white bees that are swarming.

KAY

Do the bees have a queen? Like honeybees?

GRANDMOTHER

Yes...the Snow Queen. Many a winter's night she flies through the streets and peeps in at windows, and then they freeze in so wondrous a manner that they look like little flowers.

GERDA

Can the Snow Queen come in?

KAY

Only let her! Then I'd put her on the stove, and she'd melt! I'll protect you Gerda!

Scene 2

Two Little Girls

GRANDMOTHER *exits. Night falls. Perhaps two ladders are brought together a la "Our Town" to serve as GERDA and KAY'S houses – their roofs almost joining together. They each climb a ladder and meet at the top.*

KAY

Gerda...I think I have seen the Snow Queen.

GERDA

Really?

KAY

One night I was looking out of my window and a snowflake landed on the edge of a flowerpot. It seemed to grow larger and larger until it was like a young lady. She was so beautiful, but she was of ice...

GERDA

She frightens me, the Snow Queen. *(A beat)* I'll be glad when it's summer again. I don't like all this talk of ice and cold.

KAY

Gerda –

KAY hands her a small paper rose.

KAY

I made it for you. I know how you miss our summer roses. This is just paper, but I thought it might make you happy. At least until we can plant new, real ones in the spring.

GERDA

Oh, Kay! I love it!

She takes the rose.

GERDA

Promise we'll always be best friends, no matter what?

KAY

Always! No matter what!

They throw their arms around each other.

KAY

Oh! You're freezing! Here! Take my shawl.

She wraps her shawl around GERDA. A beat. The SPRITE watches the scene.

SPRITE

There are some of the mirror's shards! Hidden in amongst the snowflakes!

KAY

Ow!

GERDA

What is it?

KAY

Oh! I feel such a sharp pain in my heart; and now something has got into my eye!

GERDA *starts crying, frantically searching KAY'S eye for the offending object.*

GERDA

Where? Oh, Kay, does it hurt?

KAY

I think it is out now.

A beat. KAY'S whole demeanor has changed.

KAY

What are you crying for? You look so ugly! There's nothing the matter with me. Now, see, that paper flower has gotten wet. It's no use now. What a stupid thing.

She grabs the flower and starts stomping on it.

GERDA

No! What are you doing?

KAY

That's right! Criticize me. After I made you a present and you made me nothing. You're an awful girl. Who'd want to sit on a silly old roof with you?

KAY climbs down. Some of the other village girls run by.

EMMA

Kay! We're going sledding!

JENNY

(Holding the sled) Mother said we could! Even though it's late!

SOFIA

Do you want to come?

JENNY

It's going to be ever so much fun!

KAY

(Snatching the sled) Give it here! I can sled much better than you. Just watch me. You don't have the proper technique.

KAY runs off. The other girls watch her.

JENNY

That wasn't very nice!

EMMA

What's the matter with her?

The SPRITE laughs. The girls watch KAY (off stage) take off on the sled.

SOFIA

Kay! Kay – you're going so fast!

EMMA

You mustn't! It's too dark, you can't see!

JENNY

You'll get hurt!

A beat.

EMMA

She's fallen!

SOFIA

Kay! Kay are you ok?

JENNY

Serves her right, the way she talked to us!

GERDA *and the other girls run after her, dragging JENNY with them.*

A beat.

KAY *comes rolling onstage, completely out of control. She crashes into something. She stops, holding her head. She looks up.*

The SNOW QUEEN sits on a beautiful sleigh with her two assistants: SNOWFLAKE and SNOWDROP.

SNOWFLAKE

Poor little girl.

SNOWDROP

She must have hurt herself crashing into the sleigh like that.

SNOWFLAKE

Look – she's shivering.

SNOWDROP

What's shivering?

SNOWFLAKE

It's what humans do when they get cold.

The SNOW QUEEN holds out her hand and KAY climbs into her sleigh. She gives KAY a kiss on her forehead.

SNOW QUEEN

There. You're not cold anymore are you?

KAY *nods "no."*

KAY

You're the Snow Queen.

SNOW QUEEN

Yes.

KAY

(A beat.) Give me another kiss! Then I will be quite warm.

SNOW QUEEN

Now, no more kisses, or I shall kiss you to death.

SNOWFLAKE

Is she coming with us?

SNOW QUEEN

Yes. I think little Kay will stay in my palace. Would you like that, Kay?

As they travel off we can hear the cries of GERDA in the distance.

GERDA (O.S.)

Kay! Where are you?

[Purchase Perusal for Full Script](#)